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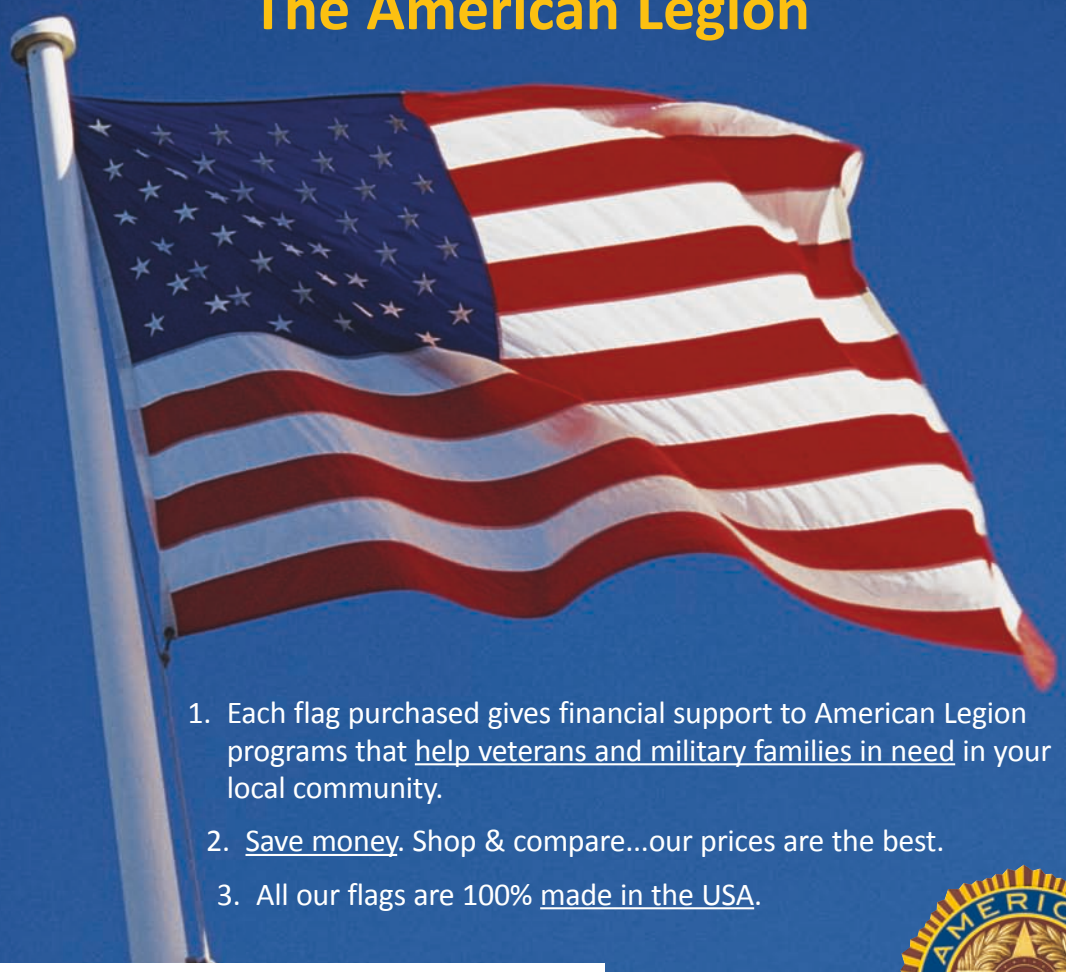

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Drones seem to be everywhere these days, flown by first responders, businesses, government entities and enthusiasts like Paul Nurkkala of Indianapolis, a professional drone racer. Photo by Lucas Carter

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GUARDS OF HONOR

Doug Catts, left, commander of Murray-Trout Post 262 in Audubon, N.J., and Zachary Camp of Murray-Trout Sons of The American Legion Squadron 262 watch the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery on Feb. 24 during the 59th American Legion Washington Conference. Photo by Lucas Carter

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 13,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS Henry Howard
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR Laura Edwards
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Gunboat diplomacy

Normally I give *The American Legion Magazine* a cursory glance, skimming the articles. Not so for the February edition. Alan W. Dowd's article ("A Whittled Big Stick," February) had me completely enthralled. I couldn't put the magazine down. Thank you for very informative reading.

– Don Poulin, Ocala, Fla.

While reading this article, I kept thinking about one of those famous quotes from Gen. James Mattis: "I come in peace. I didn't bring artillery. But I'm pleading with you, with tears in my eyes: If you f— with me, I'll kill you all."

He knew that success was in not firing a shot, but they have to know you can. I was sad to see him leave DoD and am concerned about the future. We certainly need the "big sticks," but we also need the big leaders who know how to use them effectively.

– Bill Schrum, Middleton, Wis.

I served on the minesweeper USS *Saunter* in the South Pacific, participated in five invasions in the Philippines and put MacArthur ashore, and fought in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Why does the United States feel it has to police the world? This costs us billions of dollars and creates more trouble than it's worth – i.e., just looking for something to do.

I will end by repeating what Eisenhower said – to beware of the military-industrial complex – and add that it may bankrupt the USA.

– Tom Hohn, Oklahoma City, Okla.

'The New Dominoes'

The article by Ben Barber (February) was interesting. However, I disagree with his statement referring to Vietnam: "As it turned out, the theory was wrong." The dominoes never fell because of the U.S. military presence in Southeast Asia. History proves the theory was right.

– Jerry Christy, Piqua, Ohio

Ben Barber's piece on the rise of authoritarian governments was exceptional. With our federal government and media locked in a deadly embrace over the border wall, dangerous immigrants, bad deals made by

previous administrations and the like, it is encouraging to read a serious piece that puts issues like NAFTA, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and worrisome Russian/Chinese influence in a useful historical context.

– Mike Handy, Woodville, Va.

As Ben Barber points out, free exchange of criticism is not for the faint of heart, especially when the free exchange of good solutions is not forthcoming from the critic. The United States is the world's only capitalist constitutional republic, and in all likelihood will remain so. Leading a horse to water doesn't guarantee it will drink. We should never have allowed 58,000 of America's best to die to pursue such insanity. And it's time to realize that only one person can be the commander in chief at any one time. That's the way it's been since this country's inception.

Accepting authoritarianism, with some bloodshed, is the alternative choice that most of the world's people appear content with. Let's keep the bloodshed solely theirs. The founding fathers' advice – "Trade with all, alliances with none" – is advice we should stick with.

– Ronald S. Zimney, Dalton, Minn.

I've lived in Asia for more than 20 years, the past 15 in the Philippines. Ben Barber's article missed a key factor, which is the growing belief that democracies are dysfunctional and/or don't work. Most democracies in Asia are highly corrupt and don't advance as quickly as their neighboring authoritarian governments. Singapore, South Korea and China all made quick and significant advancements under strong autocrats before or instead of as democracies. Meanwhile, democracies like the Philippines have become the weakest countries in the region.

"Fake news" has contributed more to the diminishing trust of reporting than any actions by governments. Lastly, many of the media giants broadcast stories globally that demonstrate the failings of democracy, which has only contributed to the shift toward alternate systems.

– Rick McKersie, Tempe, Ariz.

'The Definition of Americanism'

Jeff Stoffer's review of The American Legion's historical involvement in promoting Americanism (February) was enlightening. As a 91-year-old World War II veteran, I can remember the Depression and wars in Spain, China, Ethiopia, etc., as well as the rise of communism and its disastrous consequences.

The concept of individual responsibility and freedom, which is uniquely American, is under attack by those who believe a powerful central government that redistributes wealth is the goal for our future. The Cuban, Venezuelan, Russian and Chinese examples of this system are self-evident. The United States of America has demonstrated a true democratic republic that is still the model of government for the rest of the world.

– Charles D. "Tad" Foran, Dallas

Jeff Stoffer's article, overall, is good. What I question is this: "It is a definition that is modern, progressive and alive." Look at the division in our country brought on by progressives. We need an American Legion that is unified and stable in our goals. Like the U.S. Constitution, we need a foundation that is solid, not changing with every new thing or idea that comes along or is popular at a particular time.

There also wasn't enough emphasis on God in the article. "For God and Country" puts God in the proper place: first. The reason our country is going through the turmoil and division today is because most Americans have turned our backs on God.

"Without God, there is no Americanism" – think about that phrase. We must get back to the basics that the founding fathers knew. God must be in the center of our business as The American Legion. Putting God first will bring true life to each of us.

– Jim Vandivort, chaplain, American Legion Department of Wyoming

Our turn to rescue them

I am an active-duty Coast Guard member. I want to say thank you to The American Legion for offering assistance to Coast Guard members and their families during a time of uncertainty.

– Eric Ciuca, Media, Pa.

Editor's note: In "Lore of the Legion" (January), the phrase "internment flag" was used in the description of the 1984 Unknown Soldier ceremony. The correct word is "interment."

***THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE* WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS**

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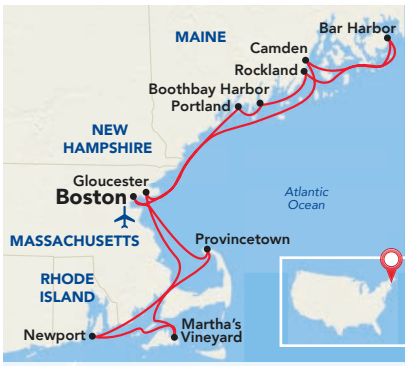

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Congress should follow Coast Guard motto

When I served in the Army's Old Guard at Fort Myer, Va., toward the end of the Vietnam era, I had many things to worry about. Being paid was never one of them. Unfortunately, members of the Coast Guard recently learned they cannot be assured of a steady paycheck.

As we entered the new year, our federal government was already nine days into what would become the longest U.S. federal government shutdown in history. I can assure you that The American Legion was not shut down. Nor was the Coast Guard, although its pay certainly was.

Because the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security, its payroll was not appropriated in advance like the other service branches, which are under the Department of Defense. The latest shutdown was the first ever to cause an entire branch of our military to suffer a pay stoppage.

This occurred despite legislation in both houses of Congress that would have paid these men and women, who continued to defend our shores every single day during that period of deep uncertainty. The fact that the Pay Our Coast Guard Act did not fly through Congress is nothing short of bipartisan failure.

It was politics over patriotism. I am proud that your American Legion provided more than $1 million in temporary financial assistance to thousands of Coast Guard families in need through our Veterans & Children Foundation. This was $1 million more than the government provided them during the same period.

Keep in mind, these are non-repayable grants, not loans. We budgeted only $280,000 for the year, because no one could have anticipated that members of our military would not be paid. While they did receive retroactive backpay, Coast Guard personnel should not have had to face the worry and stress of not knowing when or how their bills would be paid. There's also the likelihood that Coast Guard recruiting and retention will take a hit.

Your continuing support for The American Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation is most appreciated. You can make donations online at **legion.org/tfa**.

Never again should members of our nation's military have to visit soup kitchens to feed their families. A junior enlisted member of the military earns less than $23,200 in annual base pay, below the poverty level for a family of four. Unlike other federal workers, he or she does not have the option of simply quitting on the spot and finding another job during a shutdown. Congress and the White House need to ensure that not a single servicemember goes unpaid during future shutdowns. By passing the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, Congress will provide the men and women defending our shores the financial security they deserve.

Despite the 35-day shutdown, the 41,000 men and women of the Coast Guard continued to perform search-and-rescue operations, drug interdictions and maritime security missions every day. Their motto is *Semper Paratus* – "always ready." We should expect Congress and the White House to show the same commitment.

National Commander
Brett P. Reistad

MEMORANDA

CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

April is Children & Youth Month, and members of the American Legion Family are encouraged to demonstrate the Legion's commitment to young people in their local communities by hosting youth activities, or by becoming involved in programs and organizations that support them.

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Applications for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship are due by April 15. The scholarship provides college money to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty or have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.

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CLAY BALLENGER

As a Tulsa, Okla., police officer and director of Oklahoma American Legion Boys State, Clay Ballenger knows how important it is for young men to have positive role models.

"To me, it all goes back to what you're exposed to and taught growing up," he says. "It really shapes the type of adult you're going to be and what impact you have on society, good or bad."

What Ballenger appreciates most about The American Legion, especially the Boys State program, is that it offers youth opportunities they may not get anywhere else. "Many of them, if they come from broken homes or have difficult situations back home, they can come here and meet some positive role models who truly care, who are taking their time to try to inspire them to make something of themselves, to serve the greater good and to do the right thing."

In 1990, Ballenger participated in Oklahoma Boys State as a high school student. He says his time as a delegate shaped the man he is today.

"I was a good kid and had a good family, but I've had a more positive impact on the world around me because of my experience at Boys State, because I went on to serve. I want to pass that on to others."

– Andy Proffet

BRANCH OF SERVICE Army Reserve (1995-2006)

RANK Captain

MILITARY JOB Quartermaster officer

AMERICAN LEGION POST Post 1, Tulsa, Okla.

YEARS IN THE LEGION 13

LEGION ACTIVITIES

- Oklahoma Boys State director (2004, 2015-present)
- Oklahoma Boys State staff (1993-2004, 2015-present)
- Boys Nation staff (2004, 2015-present)
- National Americanism Council (2016-2018)
- Department Americanism Commission chairman (2016-2017)
- Department Legionnaire of the Year (2016)

Watch an interview of Clay Ballenger online:

legion.org/magazine

See an archive of past interviews:

legion.org/iamlegion

"I truly believe it makes our country a better place when you get youth going down the right path."

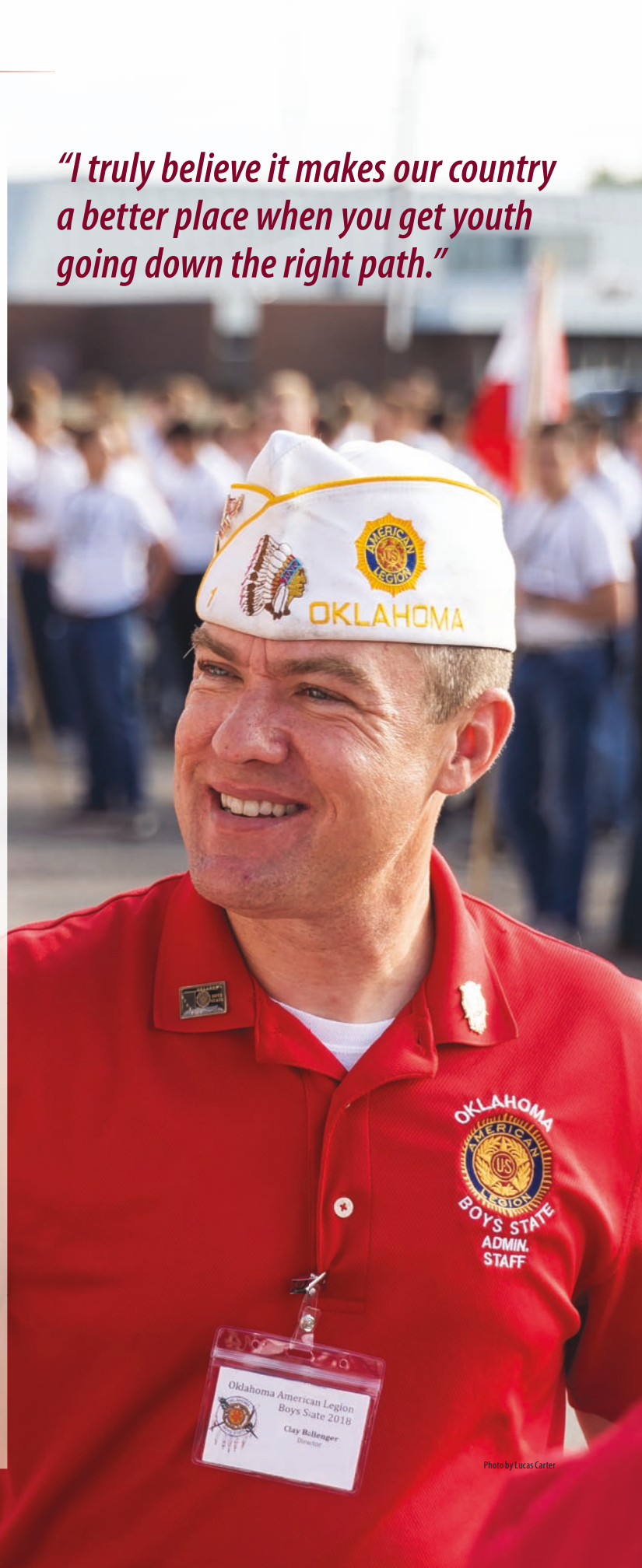

Photo by Lucas Carter

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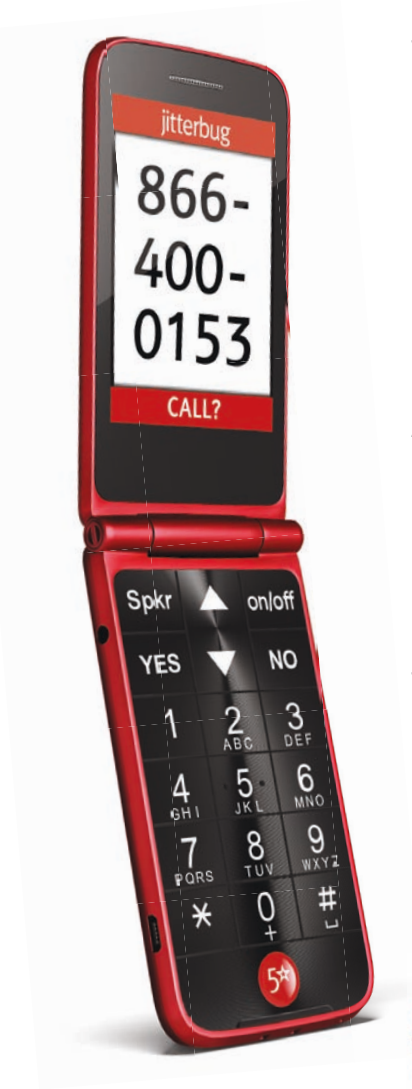

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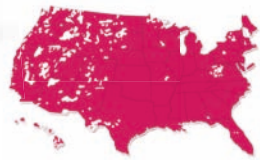

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Background checks for all gun sales

SUPPORT

Rep. Robin Kelly, D-Ill.

■ Kelly is a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

OPPOSE

Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz.

■ Biggs is a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Since 1968, gun violence has claimed more lives than all U.S. wars combined. Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal is right: "Our communities should not feel like war zones …. (we) begin ending the carnage by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of those who cannot be trusted to handle them responsibly." Some people have worked overtime to make gun violence prevention a divisive issue, but saving lives is something we can all agree on.

We can all agree the status quo is unacceptable. Every day, nearly 100 people die from gun violence, and the safety of our communities and schools is under threat. We can all agree, too, that background checks save lives. Since 1994, more than 3 million dangerous people – including domestic abusers, violent criminals and individuals with severe mental health issues – have been prevented from buying firearms due to background checks. States with strong gun-violence prevention laws have few deaths and injuries. That's why more than 90 percent of Americans and more than 70 percent of NRA members support expanding background checks to all gun sales.

We can all agree that we need a bipartisan solution. For years, Democrats and Republicans have been working together to craft legislation that protects lawful gun owners while preventing dangerous criminals from accessing weapons. The result is the Bipartisan Background Check Act, which is designed to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people while allowing responsible gun owners to continue our nation's proud tradition of sportsmanship, target shooting and hunting.

It's time to come together for the safety of American families and pass this bill as Americans, not Republicans and Democrats.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

New bipartisan legislation requires background checks by every person who sells or transfers a gun. Critics say the bill is an attempt to ban private gun sales, personal collections and even the borrowing of a firearm.

In the months leading up to the Democrats' takeover of the House, Republicans warned of the left's desire to start overturning the Second Amendment. One of the first acts of the new majority was to introduce H.R. 8, to require a background check for every firearm sale. In other words, a bill to make background checks "universal."

Gun-control advocates claim universal background checks will stop dangerous people from obtaining firearms. But there are federal laws and regulations that already do that for felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, etc.

While this bill was offered as a response to tragic mass shootings, a study on background checks found that evidence for the effect of background checks on mass shootings is "inconclusive." Inconclusive evidence is a poor excuse to pass any law in Congress.

H.R. 8 subjects law-abiding citizens to potential federal criminal penalties for simply handing a gun to another person. While there are some exceptions, they are overly broad and complicated for unwary citizens. Unfortunately, this bill will make criminals out of responsible gun owners and heavily infringes on the Second Amendment.

Some gun-related tragedies and crimes are preventable. However, instead of undermining the Constitution, we should improve cooperation between law-enforcement agencies to ensure that U.S. citizens are protected from violent criminals and mentally ill people wishing to harm others.

When I took my oath of office, I swore to protect and defend the U.S. Constitution. This does not exclude the Second Amendment. I will oppose any attempt to infringe on our Second Amendment rights, including H.R. 8.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Healing hugs

It turns out there's some scientific backing for the pop-culture cliché "hug it out."

A new study led by Michael Murphy of Carnegie Mellon University states that hugs can be a buffer against damaging changes in mood associated with interpersonal conflict, according to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Murphy's team interviewed 404 adults over 14 days, asking about interpersonal conflicts they faced, hugs they received, and any positive or negative moods they experienced.

"Receiving a hug on the day of conflict was concurrently associated with a smaller decrease in positive emotions and a smaller increase in negative emotions," AAAS reports.

"Individuals who engage more frequently in interpersonal touch enjoy better physical and psychological health," AAS continues, citing Murphy's research. "This possibility holds important potential implications for health and well-being, because conflicts with others are associated with a large range of deleterious psychological and physical outcomes."

Media Bakery

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

Media Bakery

THE SWEET SPOT

With VA's help, more veterans are achieving greater blood-pressure control.

BY MARK L. FUERST

Get in the blood pressure "sweet spot," and you'll live longer. That's what one of several VA studies on blood pressure shows.

What exactly is blood pressure? It is the force of your blood pushing against the walls of your arteries. Your blood pressure is highest when your heart beats (systolic pressure). When your heart is at rest between beats, your blood pressure falls (diastolic pressure). Your blood pressure reading uses these two numbers – 120/80 means a systolic of 120 and a diastolic of 80.

You are considered to have high blood pressure, or hypertension, when your blood pressure readings are above 140/90 on at least two occasions. The blood pressure of about one-third of American adults, or about 75 million people, is high, but only about half of them have it under control. When your blood pressure stays high, over time your heart works harder. This increases your risk for heart disease and stroke; it can also contribute to heart failure, kidney disease and blindness.

The good news is that about three-quarters of veterans have their high blood pressure under control because of care they receive at VA medical centers.

"VA does a great job controlling veterans' blood pressure," says Ross Fletcher, chief of staff emeritus at the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center. "Blood pressure has been one of the prime areas of VA clinical research since the 1960s."

VA stores electronic health records of every blood-pressure reading taken on a veteran since 2000, including 3.5 million patients from Alaska to Puerto Rico who have high blood pressure. Each veteran's record includes a reminder to check blood pressure at the next doctor visit, and to make sure he or she has

See **BLOOD PRESSURE** *on page* **16**

Treating your COPD and still struggling?

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★ ★ ★

These may be indicators of bronchiectasis—a common but frequently undiagnosed condition caused by chronic inflammation of the airways.[1]

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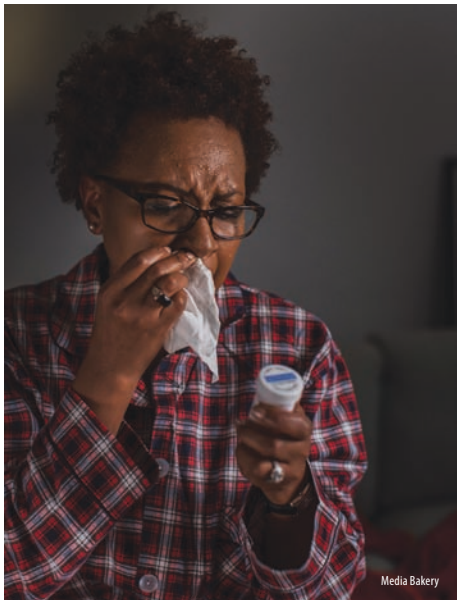
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The risks of cold and flu meds

The worst of the flu season may be behind us, but as HealthDay reports, cardiologists are reminding their patients that some over-the-counter cold and flu medicines can pose real risks to their hearts.

People with uncontrolled high blood pressure or heart disease should avoid taking oral decongestants, says Sondra DePalma, a physician assistant at the PinnacleHealth CardioVascular Institute at UPMC Pinnacle in Pennsylvania. "And for the general population or someone with low cardiovascular risk, they should use them with the guidance of a health-care provider."

DePalma co-authored guidelines from the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology focused on managing high blood pressure. Decongestants and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), found in many cold medicines, are listed as medications that could increase blood pressure, according to HealthDay.

Decongestants constrict blood vessels, allowing less fluid into your sinuses.

"If you have high blood pressure or heart disease, the last thing you need is constricting blood vessels," says Erin Michos, associate director of preventive cardiology at the Johns Hopkins Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Heart Disease.

If you must use decongestants, blood-pressure guidelines recommend the shortest duration possible, HealthDay reports. Other alternatives include nasal saline and antihistamines.

BLOOD PRESSURE *continued from page* **14**

medication refills. If your blood pressure is high, you will be sent to a specialty or nurse-run clinic for further treatment.

A series of studies led by Fletcher show that veterans can achieve high rates of blood-pressure control in all age and ethnic groups and in both sexes. Highlights of those studies include:

- "Get into the sweet spot of control from 120 to 140 systolic, on average, and survival increases substantially," Fletcher says. "Blood pressures above or below these ranges are associated with a higher risk of death in all ages. The beauty is that few veterans are below 110 or above 150." Over 70 percent of veterans hit the "sweet spot."
- Even older patients can achieve blood-pressure control. "Older patients respond well to treatment. As older veterans make gains in control, they are able to bring systolic levels down to below 140, just about the same level as younger patients," Fletcher said. VA studies show that diastolic blood pressure also decreases in all age groups older than 55 with better control.
- Caucasian and African-American patients are able to control their blood pressure. A VA study found that both groups improved high blood-pressure control over 11 years, but blacks consistently were 5 percent less well-controlled than whites. "More intensive treatment, with improved weight control, may be required if blacks are to achieve blood-pressure control equal to whites," Fletcher says. "However, when blacks lower pressure to the sweet spot, they have fewer strokes, heart failure and kidney failure."

You can help control your blood pressure with some simple lifestyle changes and prescription medications. Heart-healthy lifestyle changes include losing weight, eating plenty of fruits and vegetables, exercising more, consuming less salt in your diet, taking time to relax and not smoking.

Blood pressure medications work in different ways to lower blood pressure. Some remove extra fluid and salt from the body, while others slow down the heartbeat or relax and widen blood vessels. Many patients take two, three or more medications.

High blood pressure may qualify you for disability payment. Veterans with multiple tours of combat are nearly one-third more likely to have high blood pressure, and those who have witnessed death while on active duty are 50 percent more likely to develop the disease.

New research links exposure to Agent Orange to high blood pressure, which could dramatically expand disability benefits to those who served in Vietnam. The findings from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine recommend adding high blood pressure to the list of 14 diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure.

"High blood pressure is a silent disease," Fletcher says. "You must take your blood pressure and know it. Buy a home blood pressure cuff to make sure your blood pressure stays low. If it goes up, get treatment as soon as possible. Treatment does improve survival."

Mark L. Fuerst is a Brooklyn-based health and fitness writer.

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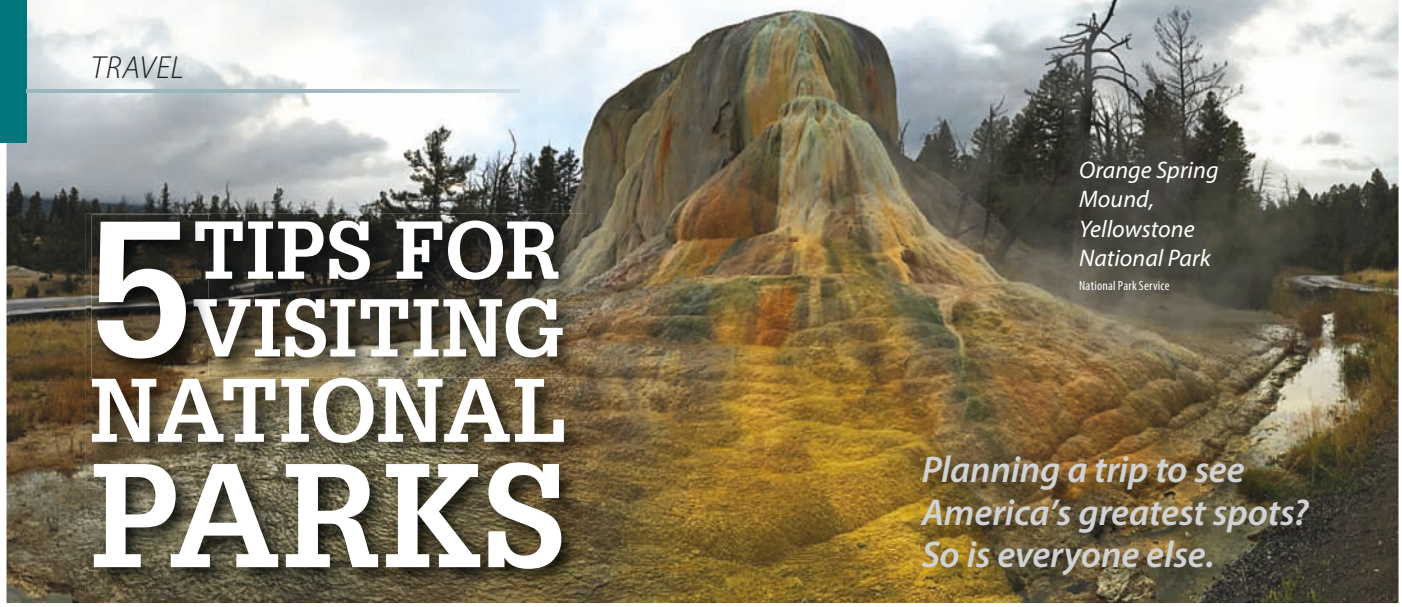

Orange Spring Mound, Yellowstone National Park
National Park Service

5 TIPS FOR VISITING NATIONAL PARKS

Planning a trip to see America's greatest spots? So is everyone else.

BY LYN METTLER

If visiting a national park is on your agenda this summer, here's some advice to help you get the most out of the experience and avoid the crowds as much as possible:

Book in advance If you want to stay in one of the historic national park lodges, such as the Majestic Yosemite Hotel in California or Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn in Wyoming, and you haven't booked it yet, forget it. These lodges are incredibly busy and usually have to be reserved years in advance.

Many national parks are also remote and don't have many hotels or even restaurants nearby, such as Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah. While the Best Western Plus Bryce Canyon is a great option, you may also want to check HomeAway, VRBO or Airbnb to see what vacation rentals may be available.

Go early The summer months are the national parks' peak season; many are difficult to navigate during the winter, and school is out, so families are traveling in droves. To avoid huge crowds in the most popular parks, get there as early as you can, ideally as soon as the sun rises – or even camp overnight, so you can be there first thing. You're likely to have a quieter experience. As you head toward noon in many parks, you may find yourself constantly scooting over for someone walking past on a busy trail.

Explore the backcountry A little-known option in many national parks is to visit the park's backcountry instead of its most popular trails. In Zion National Park in Utah, for example, there are parts of the park that are not serviced by the main visitor center, which handles its "frontcountry" trails, including the super popular "Narrows" and "Angel's Landing." This is easiest to do by securing a backpacking or camping permit to gain access to the more remote areas. Permits may need to be reserved at least a year in advance, however.

Enter through the least busy side You can also avoid congestion by driving into the park via a side that is not the main entrance. For example, in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, most people come through the east side via Estes Park, whereas if you stay in Grand Lake on the west side, you may skip some of the traffic.

Research parking Parking can also fill quickly in many national parks, so arriving early is key. In Zion, the main lot is usually full by 10 a.m., and visitors must then park in a nearby town and take a shuttle. Research the parking situation in advance and see if you can get information about when the lots typically fill.

If all else fails and the parks are just too busy to enjoy, head to a state park instead. Utah has some amazing parks, such as Kodachrome Basin State Park and Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, that offer similar scenery without the crowds.

Lyn Mettler is a freelance travel writer who blogs at ***GotoTravelGal.com****.*

Any honorably discharged veteran can present a DD-214 to stay at Disney's **Shades of Green** resort in January and September at a discounted rate. Veterans can purchase tickets through Shades of Green, and the property also sells tax-free park passes onsite.

Shades of Green Resort
U.S. Army

A new survey from AARP found that **baby boomers** are planning to take between four and five leisure trips in 2019, spending more than $6,600, which is more than millennials or Generation X. Additionally, about half expect to travel within the United States, while only 6 percent plan to travel internationally only.

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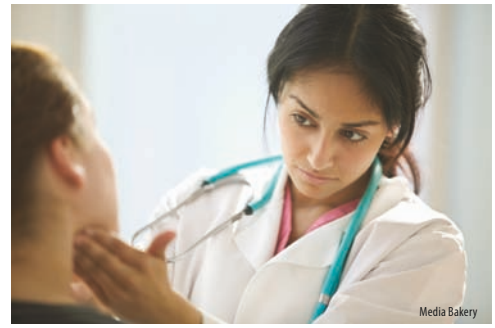
More vets to rely on VA-paid community care

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Starting this summer, many more veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system will gain access to VA-contracted provider networks in their communities, a move toward fulfilling the promise of more timely, convenient medical care that fueled passage of the VA MISSION Act last year.

And depending on how quickly these provider networks can be organized to meet new demands, VA-enrolled veterans will also soon gain access to commercially run urgent-care clinics for treatment of common injuries and illnesses without need of prior approval from VA primary-care physicians.


Media Bakery

In February, VA released long-awaited details on how the new urgent-care benefit and Veterans Community Care Program will operate.

However, many veterans service organizations complained that VA failed to engage with them while shaping those implementation rules, raising more questions than it answered.

Veterans groups and congressional oversight committees sought two assurances from expansion of VA-paid community care: that it will be properly funded and that quality of care won't be sacrificed for speedier appointments with for-profit providers.

Doubts also surfaced over whether VA will have in place by June the complex procedures and enhanced administrative tools necessary to avoid the kind of calamitous launch that scarred the Choice program in 2014.

Key purposes of the MISSION Act are to reform Choice and to consolidate up to a half-dozen VA community-care plans Congress created to address local or parochial needs over the past decade or more. VA and key lawmakers began to criticize access standards under Choice as arbitrary, designed to contain costs rather than meet veterans' clinical-care needs.

The new access standards, however, are simply more liberal versions of the Choice parameters. To qualify for outside care, the program required veterans either to live more than 40 miles from a VA facility having a primary-care provider, or to face waits for VA medical appointments longer than 30 days.

The Veterans Community Care Program allows veterans to use networks of local providers for primary care, mental health care or non-institutional extended care services if their average drive time to get to such care from VA is longer than 30 minutes. They will be allowed to use outside providers for specialty care if their average drive time to see a VA specialist is more than 60 minutes.

More veterans will also gain access to private-sector networks using new wait-time triggers: longer than 20 days to access VA primary care, mental health care and non-institutional extended care services and waits longer than 28 days for VA specialty care.

The access standards are one of six criteria Congress approved to expand and reshape community-care eligibility. More governing regulations are to be issued in locales where VA services are unavailable, in states where VA has no full-service medical facility, to extend grandfather protections to outside care under the Choice 40-mile standard, in situations determined by "medical best interest" of patients, and where VA determines that one of its own medical service lines isn't meeting its quality care standards.

In proposed rules governing networks of urgent-care clinics, VA emphasized the new benefit must not be used to treat chronic conditions, which still will be managed by primary-care physicians. Veterans with temporary or episodic health needs, however, will be able to walk into participating urgent-care clinics rather than schedule VA office appointments or travel to a VA emergency room.

The first three urgent-care visits in a calendar year will be free to veterans in Priority Groups 1 to 5. Certain veterans in Group 6, and all veterans in Groups 7 and 8, will be charged a co-pay of $30 per visit. To discourage overuse of urgent care, the $30 co-pay will be charged to veterans after their third walk-in visit, including those with service-connected disabilities. That detail drew criticism from veterans groups.

Tom Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for more than 40 years.

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Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey wore "Army greens" when he and President Trump appeared at the Army-Navy football game in December. U.S. Army photo

'EVERYTHING STARTS WITH A PICTURE'

BY JEFF STOFFER

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey says World War II throwback "Army greens" are a good fit for a new generation.

At a time when modernization is front and center for the U.S. Army, the branch's top noncommissioned officer is reaching into the past to revive an image for a new generation. The service dress uniform style of World War II officers is coming back. The move, which had 72 percent approval in an October 2018 *Army Times* poll, aims to project tomorrow's soldier as a sharply outfitted professional, able to fight and qualified to work in any chosen career field after discharge.

"The No. 1 reason is to identify to the American people that we have a very professional force," Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey says. "The Sgt. Maj. Dailey dream is that every soldier leaves the Army with either a degree or a credential. We are on a path to success."

Starting this year, the Army will begin issuing the new service dress uniforms – to recruiters first, with a full rollout in 2020. The new "Army greens" are historically accurate representations of the "pink and greens" – so called due to the pinkish hue the pants could assume after laundering – worn by iconic World War II officers like Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall.

Dailey wore a prototype of the throwback uniform at the Army-Navy football game in December. "I'm one of the guys who gets to walk onto the field with the president, so the cameras were there," Dailey said. "I didn't have to tell anybody what it was. I didn't have to remind anybody. I was immediately recognized as, 'You look like a soldier.' That was the intent."

Dailey, an American Legion member and father of a Virginia American Legion Boys State alum, spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about the uniform change and other innovations he's driving to advance the Army's image among families, recruits, soldiers and industries looking for skilled professionals who served their country.

What makes this historic uniform appealing now?

To this day, grandchildren of that greatest generation recognize that uniform, universally. It's distinguishable. It's prominent. I want the American people to look at our soldiers and say, "Man, that's a good-looking young man or woman who is serving our country." And the acceptance rate of our soldiers – in my recollection on any survey on uniforms – is higher than any other.

How closely does this version match the original?

We wanted to be historically correct, but to say that definitively is very difficult. It transformed rapidly (during World War II) because of the scale of what we were doing. There were so many manufacturers, different hues in fabric, different types, and there were so many changes – colors of rank, all kinds of things. Imagine ... we had millions of people in the Army at that point.

We are calling it an accurate historic representation. Is it 100 percent accurate? No, because we want to capitalize on modern-day fabric capabilities, wearability, all those things. It is not the traditional wool of World War II. There is a fabric that is a wool blend that will last longer, wear better, be cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It's a higher-quality uniform that takes us from a four-year to six-year wear life.

Where will it fit into a soldier's wardrobe?

Before we made the dress blue uniform we have now, we had three types of uniforms: utility, service dress (your business uniform), and then our dress blues. What we found over time was we didn't have a divide between your service dress and your formal uniform. In short, we were wearing a tuxedo to work. It is still the signature uniform of the United States Army, and it will go back to become the dress uniform. So, we will have a utility, a service uniform (which is the greens, our professional uniform), and then our dress formal uniform. And then the most formal is the dress mess, which is equivalent to a civilian tux with tails, worn to state dinners and balls.

When will soldiers begin wearing them?

We've already started working with industries to produce the first 10,000. We're focused on the Northeast, with the recruiting battalion – they will be the first – we're hoping in the spring. We will expand that to the rest of the recruiters, about 9,000 more, and then we will produce about a company's worth for the Old Guard (and) about another 120 to Pershing's Own, the U.S. Army Band, because they perform around the world. And then, consistent with all other uniform (changes) in history, we will outfit about 500 senior leaders and their sergeants major.

At what point will they be issued?

We will start issuing this uniform to soldiers after basic training. They will either get it at the end of AIT (advanced individual training) or when they get to their first unit. When they graduate from AIT is when they are fully certified to be a soldier, qualified in their MOS (military

Service dress uniform styles of officers during World War II are making a comeback, projecting a message of professionalism for enlisted and officer personnel alike in 2019. U.S. Army photo

occupational specialty). That reduces cost and allows them to stabilize their body weight, so we don't have to re-fit and issue new uniforms.

Do you see the new uniforms boosting recruitment?

I believe that it is easier to change a perception than to instill one. I believe this uniform is going to help us. All we have to do, as senior service leaders, is change the perception, to be positive.

What makes recruitment difficult right now?

There is unfortunately a depleting number of individuals 18 to 24 who are eligible for military service. Then you mix that with propensity to serve, and recruiting becomes a challenging problem – not just for us but industry, too ... we're all looking for the same product. We want a high school grad of good moral character who is physically fit and 18 to 24. Everybody wants that.

What are some of the Army's selling points?

There is a mission we have – to defend the United States of America – but we do much more than that. We train and educate you. We certify you. We give you credentials now, according to that of your civilian counterparts, as you serve. We provide you education opportunities unlike any other organization. And we give you a sense of responsibility and leadership. We want that message to resonate at dinner tables.

How is the Army helping with career training?

For years, we provided tuition assistance for traditional education, and that works very well for those soldiers who want to pursue that – about 18 percent. That's a positive thing, but it's not enough. Only about 30 percent of the jobs in America require a traditional education. Skilled labor is in great demand right now, and if 18 percent of our soldiers are choosing a traditional education path, what are we doing for the soldiers who aren't? Why can't we simultaneously give them credit if that directly equates to skills needed outside the Army?

The goal is to credential every single soldier in their military occupational skill when it directly translates or correlates to a civilian credential or certificate. When a young soldier comes in, each one of the centers of excellence where they are trained has as an initial mission to find a way to civilian-credential those folks. For electricians, welders and plumbers or MPs, it's actually not hard. We are making a lot of strides, but we still have this big gap because most of the Army is combat arms. How do you equate what they do to civilian skills?

Just like we have tuition assistance, we came up with the idea of credentialing assistance. We worked with Congress and the Department of Labor, and happily, this last National Defense Authorization Act round authorizes that service secretaries can create credentialing assistance funds, and we just launched in October, at Fort Hood, Texas, the first limited-user test. What we're doing is offering civilian credentialing out there to all soldiers, regardless of their MOS.

Simultaneously, we have worked with industry over the last five or six years to create what is called Career Skills Programs. This is where industry comes in and says, "We'll train and educate your soldiers, most of them during the last 120 to 90 days of transition, in a skill that we need." Now we have this great network across all of our military installations, where our soldiers – while they are in transition – they will fully certify them. For example, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) industry said, "Hey there's a huge shortage of HVAC technicians. We're going to train and educate these soldiers and have them fully certified on residential and commercial HVAC systems before they get out of the Army. Those programs have 95 percent job placement.

Our soldiers are starting to realize now that credentialing is an avenue to the American dream.

The intent is to expand this across the entire Army, and those soldiers will be able to choose from what we think are about 1,500 credentials that we have vetted as legitimate. Those are all on what is called the COOL website – Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (**cool.army.mil**).

Why is this such a passion for you?

Every mom and dad, to include me, wants one thing for their child, and that's a little better chance at life than we all had. We've got to tell them that the Army is a viable option to get there, because it is. Is a uniform going to do that solely? No. There's a lot of other things that are going to have to happen. But everything starts with a picture, and if you can put a soldier in hometown America in a uniform that's universally recognized by what they believe to be the greatest generation, you're partway there. The door is at least open. That's the intent of what we are doing.

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

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SEND IN THE DRONES

As technology evolves and regulations loosen, unmanned aerial vehicles are changing American life.

BY BRIAN WALLHEIMER

In 2017, three people inexperienced with the Upper Iowa River set out to enjoy a beautiful June day on their inner tubes. As the sun began to fade in the early evening sky, the group began to worry they wouldn't find a place to exit the river before nightfall.

Stopped on a sandbar, the trio realized their cellphones had no signal. One tuber was suffering from serious back pain. They decided to send one person out through the woods to find help, or at least phone reception.

The tuber made it out to a road she didn't recognize and called the Decorah (Iowa) Fire Department. She helped first responders track down her location. But when it came time to find the others, the woman had only a vague recollection of the path she'd taken out of the woods.

"She gave them a general direction she thought she came from," Decorah Fire Chief Mike Ashbacher says. "Had we had to search either by boat or ground, it would have taken us some time. The area was pretty rugged."

The rescuers didn't have to do that. Instead, they sent up a drone that found the stranded tubers within minutes. Flying over the treetops, the drone located the river and followed its path.

Once they'd pinpointed the tubers' location, rescuers brought the drone back and sent it to the tubers again, this time with a note telling them to stay put. From there, first responders drove utility vehicles to their location. "The drone cut our search time by hours," Ashbacher says.

Paul Nurkkala travels the world as a professional drone racer, making a career out of what was once a hobby. Drone technology is reshaping our national life, from entertainment and commerce to search-and-rescue missions. Photo by Lucas Carter

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LEFT: *Lance Cpl. Trevor Poole, an optics technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 453, 4th Marine Logistics Group, performs a drone test flight in San Jose, Calif., on Feb. 9.* U.S. Marine Corps photo

TOP: *Agricultural drones are used to assess crop conditions, predict yields, detect pest damage and irrigation leaks, and more.* Wikimedia Commons

That particular drone can carry up to 5 pounds and has been used in several water rescues. It has delivered ropes to stranded boaters, its infrared camera illuminates night searches, and it can drop life preservers to people in danger of being swept away by water.

The Decorah Fire Department, an almost entirely volunteer company that covers 240 square miles in northeastern Iowa, purchased its drone about a year earlier with funds raised in the community. "There will be a day when it will save a life," Ashbacher says.

REDUCING THE RISK Similar stories are reported across the country. Algona, Iowa, firefighters used a drone to locate a man having a heart attack after he and his granddaughter were stranded on a river while boating. In Mechanic Falls, Maine, an 18-year-old man and 12-year-old boy were delivered life jackets by drone when they were caught on a slippery rock in a raging current.

Drones helped investigate a rash of fires among old buildings in Rockford, Ill., in 2017. Extensive damage made it impossible for firefighters or investigators to enter the structures. In some cases, getting close wasn't even an option due to the danger of a collapse. A job too risky for people was perfect, however, for a drone.

Police are also using drones to track and capture suspects. Modesto, Calif., police used a drone in 2016 to tail a robbery suspect as he fled and scaled a fence. Thanks to the drone, officers were waiting on the other side.

Increasingly, unmanned aerial vehicles – aka drones – are reducing the amount of time it takes, and the risk involved, in making rescues or arrests. Even routine tasks, such as investigating a fender bender, can be done more quickly and safely with drones.

"There is all manner of use for these with search-and-rescue, as well as accident investigations," says Brian Wynne, president and CEO of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that advocates for unmanned systems and robotics. "These are very labor-intensive jobs. There are officers out there with tape measures and cars whizzing by them. You can do those measurements in a matter of seconds with a drone from a much safer space."

Kyle Snyder is director of the NextGen Air Transportation Consortium, a group of experts from academia, industry and government who research aviation technology development at North Carolina State University. He believes that drones soon will be considered standard issue for police, similar to handcuffs and a gun.

"Expect to see every law-enforcement vehicle have one in its trunk to help with scene investigation," Snyder predicts.

DRONES AT WORK The military's use of drones has sparked debate about their role in targeting enemy combatants while keeping American servicemembers out of harm's way. On the domestic front, smaller drones – much more like

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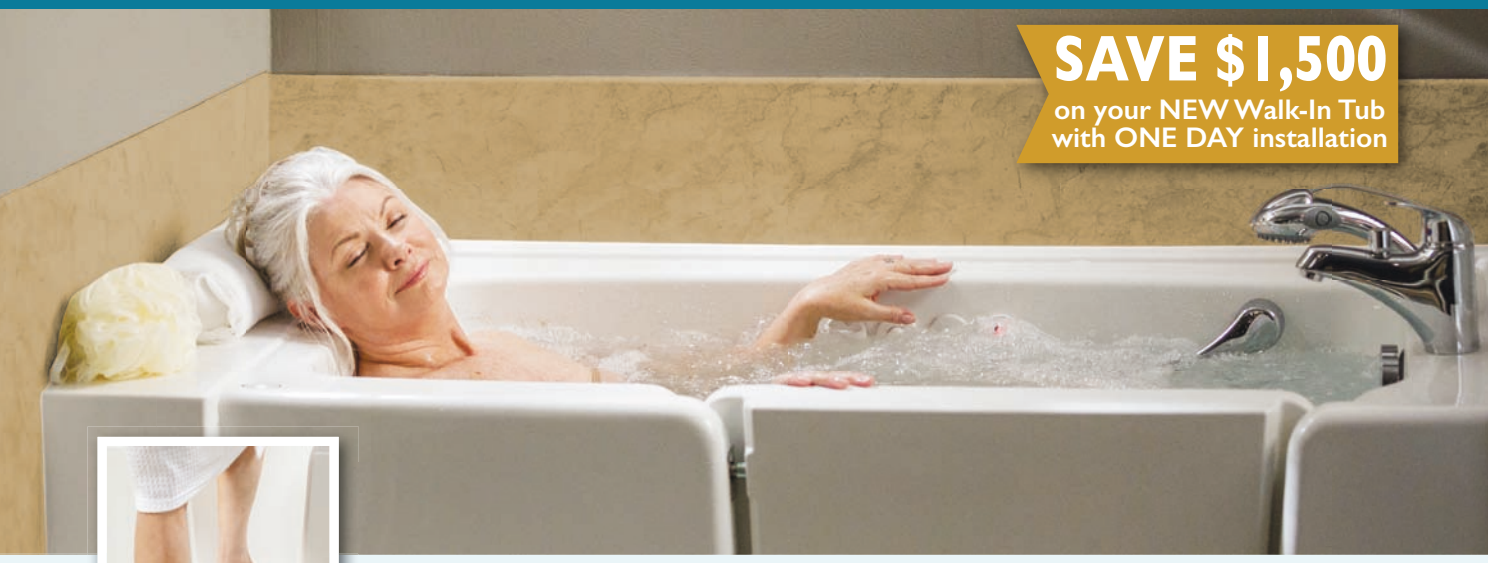

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remote-controlled airplanes – can be purchased for less than $100 in many department stores or online, giving hobbyists hours of enjoyment zipping them around local parks and open fields.

In between are commercial drones that are used by a wide range of operators and businesses, from the Decorah Fire Department to farmers monitoring fields and real-estate agents trying to sell houses.

Those industries are already exploring ways in which they can use data, video and photography from drones, says Trevor Hogan, a firefighter in Rockford and a co-owner of Northern Illinois Vertical Data.

Hogan's drone has taken video tours of large properties for sale to assist real-estate agents, and flown over building sites to help Hogan determine whether construction progress is matching written plans. He believes that as Americans become more accustomed to seeing drones and their benefits, demand will rise. He also expects drones to play a significant role in agriculture.

Over an 80-acre field, Hogan can take hundreds of pictures and stitch them together on his computer. From the photos, he can see places with high weed pressure that might need herbicide applications or an area in which crops might be in distress, indicating the need for soil nutrient tests. "You can compare these maps with soil samples and soil testing, elevation changes in the field," he says. "It's another piece of the puzzle to show why some areas of the field produce more."

An infrared sensor on a drone can measure chlorophyll content in plants. That data might allow a farmer to apply fertilizer only to field sections that really need it, as opposed to doing a whole-field application.

"The whole field might not need nitrogen but maybe a part of it does, and you can increase that yield 10 to 20 bushels per acre," said Jerry Hatfield, director of the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, part of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

That not only saves the farmer money and time, but it decreases unnecessary fertilizer applications – ultimately reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus causing environmental damage when they reach rivers and streams.

"When it comes down to precision agriculture, you're not treating the field as a whole," Hogan says. "You're making little custom management plans for smaller sections of a field."

In the future, drones may help improve crops and speed production. Snyder has seen prototypes of drones that can pluck apples from trees. "It's not routine or mass-produced right now, but there are people showing that you can do those things today," he says.

RIDING HIGH Hogan is far from alone in exploring opportunities to build business using drones. As more uses for them are developed, business is expected to boom at companies like his nationwide.

"Drones: Reporting for Work," a 2016 report from Goldman Sachs, estimates that civil governments and businesses may spend $13 billion on drones by 2020. It lists construction, agriculture, insurance claims, offshore oil and gas, police and fire, the Coast Guard, journalism and the Border Patrol as large-growth areas.

"I can't think of very many segments of the U.S. economy that might not benefit from this tech," Wynne says. "The applications go on and on."

Amazon, the online retail giant, drew notice when it floated the idea of delivering packages via drones. "In a rural area, a delivery truck might pull to the end of a driveway and use a drone to deliver to a target on the lawn," Wynne says. "That saves time and money. Those technologies are being tested as we speak."

Packages aren't the only things that might hitch a ride through the skies. Wynne envisions a day when people might hop on a drone on a rooftop in New York City or Chicago to be delivered to another location nearby, avoiding the congested traffic associated with big cities. He's heard ride-sharing companies discuss how such services could work.

"It's getting close to 'Jetsons' stuff," Wynne says, referencing the 1960s-era cartoon set in a world of flying cars and robots.

All this is possible, he adds. The sky is the limit, but there are still significant hurdles to overcome before we leap from dropping notes to stranded boaters to dropping passengers at a football game.

SAFETY AND SECURITY Maybe the most significant of those hurdles is safety. While the technology used in drones is advancing rapidly, there are still concerns about the safety of people on the ground. Malfunctions or user error could cause serious damage to a person or property if a drone fell from the sky.

In 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration started granting exemptions to allow companies to use drones to support their businesses but implemented rules to address safety issues. Part 107 specifies, among other things, that the drone must remain in the operator's line of sight, must

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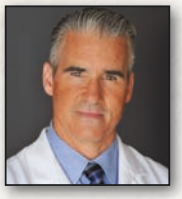

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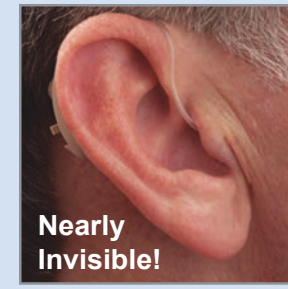

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not fly over people, must be operated during daylight hours, and cannot exceed certain speeds and heights.

"The one thing we all generally preach is public safety first," says Bob Gonsalves, president of the U.S. Association of Unmanned Aerial Videographers, a Marietta, Ga.-based organization for commercial drone operators.

That said, Gonsalves adds that the rules hinder the business uses for drones. Oil pipelines, for example, run for miles through uninhabited areas. Using a drone for inspections might require the aircraft to leave the line of sight with little or no risk to anyone.

"The biggest challenge today is that technology is outpacing regulations," Gonsalves says. "Some regulations going in place today are already outdated by the evolution of the technology."

He points to geofencing, which uses GPS and radio frequencies to set up invisible barriers that restrict drones to a certain space, to demonstrate that drones can be operated more safely than many believe.

Also, commercial operators spend thousands of dollars on their equipment. They are invested in safety if for no other reason than because they are invested in their businesses.

"Professional, commercial UAV operators, on a whole, are as safe and as responsible as they can be," Gonsalves says.

Physical safety aside, some also worry about privacy issues as citizens, businesses and government entities use unmanned aircraft with cameras to roam the skies. Social media sites and the Internet are full of stories about neighbors becoming upset when someone flies a drone over their fences or seemingly spies on them.

In 2015, a Kentucky man shot down a drone he said was spying on his teen daughter while she sunbathed in the yard. Concerns over invasion of privacy have led to a number of states and cities creating special laws for drones.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, at least 38 states considered laws pertaining to drones in 2017, and 17 states enacted 23 pieces of legislation, many centered on safety and privacy issues. South Dakota adopted a law that prohibits using a drone to record someone in a place with a reasonable expectation of privacy. Oregon made it illegal to fly a drone over private property in a way that annoys or harasses the property owner.

Others are concerned that drones might get in the way at the wrong time. Indiana enacted a law that creates the crime of "public safety remote aerial interference," which applies to anyone who uses a drone to obstruct or interfere with law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical responders or search-and-rescue personnel. A second offense is a felony.

The Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT) at Syracuse University documents dozens of local ordinances regulating drones, including a law in Daly City, Calif., that bans drones from public parks, and another in Aberdeen, S.D., that has made it illegal to operate a drone over many public spaces, as well as "over property that the operator does not own" without permission.

Gonsalves said he has long expected privacy to be a major hurdle for drone operators. "Personal privacy is emotionally driven," he says. "A lot of these local nuisance and privacy laws that we're starting to see pop up across the country are not based in fact. They're based in emotion."

The real issue, Gonsalves says, is not the use of drones. It's privacy.

"Privacy laws already exist," he points out. "Don't focus on the technology. If someone is violating someone else's personal property, it doesn't matter if it's happening with a cellphone, a (digital camera) or a drone. They're violating someone's personal space, and there are already laws for that."

Wynne believes concerns over privacy will start to wane, as they have for other technologies that might allow government entities or businesses to observe someone's whereabouts. He points to radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags, a device that allows vehicles to automatically pay highway tolls without slowing down.

"That's a lot better than waiting to put your 50 cents into a basket," Wynne says. "That was years ago that we were talking about that (as a privacy concern). Now we voluntarily let people know where I am and what I'm doing."

At the end of the day, unmanned vehicles will serve many purposes, and it's likely that the concerns people have today will go by the wayside once the technology shows its usefulness, he says.

"Ultimately what matters to people is, is it better for me?" Wynne asks. "Right now, it's getting momentum."

Brian Wallheimer is a freelance writer whose clients include Purdue University, the University of Chicago and Notre Dame. He lives in Rockford, Ill., with his wife and three children.

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PART 8

A CENTURY FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

"It's part of being a veteran ... and being an American."

BY JEFF STOFFER

"Nothing was said about the care of children in the formative meetings of The American Legion. The subject developed into a major Legion program by sheer natural law."

Richard Seelye Jones,
"A History of The American Legion," 1946

ON MAY 31, 2017, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION tallied its nationwide fundraising efforts to assist organizations that help children facing challenges, from autism to physical abuse. The total for the fundraising year was $594,413.91, a record in a journey of aid that has poised the Sons in 2019 to break the $8 million mark in cumulative donations since 1954, when the Legion established the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF).

All contributions to CWF flow directly to groups that can make the biggest differences in the lives of children, a dynamic that has been part of the Legion's identity since the mid-1920s, when Legionnaires realized it would be too costly and labor-intensive to start and staff orphanages in every state. A better approach, they agreed, was to support other agencies and associations through funds, volunteerism and advocacy. CWF was, and continues to be, an extension of that thinking.

More than $16 million in CWF grants have been disbursed since Dr. Garland Murphy, a decorated World War II flight surgeon and former American Legion Department of Arkansas commander, donated to the national organization fractional mineral rights to 10,000 acres of oil-rich land he owned in the Williston Basin of Montana and North Dakota. His one condition: the gift had to be used to help children. From that seed, more than $500,000 in grants per year are issued to groups ranging from Father Flanagan's Boys' Home at Boys Town, Neb., to the Common Strand Foundation of Virginia for its project to help children of those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

American Legion support for young people – a pillar value of the organization – takes many forms around the world. Legionnaires from Alan Seeger Post 2 in Mexico City borrowed money to build a school in the mountain village of Magdalena Petlacalco and provide monthly stipends to help educate blind, abused and abandoned kids in the community. "I don't care

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The 1930 American Legion Baseball team from Milbank, S.D. American Legion Archives

where you are in the world, children are children," then-Post 2 adjutant Dave Pederson told *The American Legion Magazine* in 2011. "And kids here are not well taken care of, especially the ones who have been abused. They need help."

"It's part of being a veteran and being an American," added then-post commander Andrew Zgolinski.

In Cascade, Idaho, Legionnaires purchase warm coats, boots and gloves for low-income schoolchildren. In the Department of Kansas, Operation North Pole at Fort Riley distributes hundreds of toys to children of deployed soldiers during a two-day celebration of games, gifts, goodies and a visit from Santa. Legionnaires from Brig. Gen. Robin Olds Post TH01 in Thailand donated new school uniforms for poor students at a local elementary school last fall. And in 2016, members of American Legion Post 171 in Cripple Creek, Colo., rebuilt the uninhabitable home of a 100 percent disabled post-9/11 Marine Corps veteran whose young son has muscular dystrophy. Post 171 member Curt Sorenson calls this "camaraderie around a common cause."

The ways in which The American Legion fulfills its Children & Youth mission often overlap with the organization's other pillars. Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was the first youth program officially endorsed by the Legion, via a resolution at the 1st National Convention in 1919. The symmetry between veterans and Scouts was natural for posts across the country, as the Legion soon grew to become the largest non-faith-based sponsor of BSA units, today supporting more than 2,300 packs and troops worldwide. That relationship, which in many communities includes annual flag-retirement ceremonies, could be indexed under the Americanism or National Security pillars of Legion service as well as Children & Youth.

The main argument for American Legion Baseball, introduced at the 1925 South Dakota Department Convention in Milbank, S.D., came from former Army Maj. John L. Griffith, first commissioner of the Big Ten Conference, who told Legionnaires that sports and fitness opportunities for young people are a matter of national security. "You remember it was only a few years ago we commenced hastily and earnestly to take stock of our boy power and manpower ... because we realized in those days that it is the nation of physically fit men who would win the war, that we as a people were not physically fit for the last war, and we must cure that condition ... If the 12,000 American Legion posts could do that, I can think of nothing of greater importance or consequence in these days."

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Former Arizona Diamondbacks star outfielder Luis Gonzalez, who played Legion Baseball for Post 248 in Tampa, Fla., has said it mattered to him that veterans were behind the program. "I learned a lot about respect," he said. "When those guys came out to see you at the ballpark, you always knew that they sacrificed for us to go out and play hard."

The American Legion's nationwide movement in the 1920s to build and manage swimming pools and sports facilities in communities was certainly an initiative with children and youth in mind.

In 1921, posts in the Department of Pennsylvania launched a School Award Medal program to recognize character, service and citizenship among young people. The program went national in 1926, which delivered more than 25,000 medals last year to young people who met the criteria.

A 1925 American Legion School Award Medal

Also in 1921, when The American Legion and the National Education Association formalized a relationship to secure "for America a program of education adequate to meet the needs of the 20th century," only about half of the nation's 27 million school-age children attended classes daily. As the relationship unfolded, the Legion published two textbooks on history and civics for use in public schools and over the decades has distributed millions of dollars in college scholarships, taught flag education to kids and put veterans in classrooms to discuss wartime experiences.

The American Legion's Children & Youth identity formed two distinct lanes that occasionally intersected:

▪ **Programs and services for responsible U.S. citizenship and leadership**, such as Boys State in 1935, the National Oratorical Contest in 1938, Boys Nation in 1946, Junior Shooting Sports in 1991, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement and similar first-response programs over the past half-century, sponsorship of Junior ROTC programs worldwide, and hundreds of local efforts to promote wholesome development of youth, from high school rodeo in Wyoming to an after-school chess club in Oregon.

▪ **Programs and services for children in need** – especially those facing difficulties beyond their control – including development of "children's billets" for orphans and at-risk kids, regional Legion and Auxiliary case workers for children in need, Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) cash grants for financially strapped military and veteran families with minor children at home, CWF, support for Special Olympics and hundreds of local initiatives worldwide.

The Children & Youth lanes intersected for Jerome Fortenberry, whose father was a disabled World War I veteran who died in the middle of the Depression, leaving five children. First to arrive at the distraught family's home were the local American Legion post commander and service officer. Fortenberry said it was The American Legion that held the family together, keeping food on the table and a roof overhead. He went on to serve in the Navy during World War II and later was elected the Legion's national chaplain. After he was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest, Father Fortenberry was a devoted figure in ANAVICUS (Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada and the United States), which raises funds to provide college scholarships for young people.

Jones recounted in his 1946 history another story where the two lanes intersected:

> *"A veteran of Armenian birth and American naturalization brought his son to the U.S.A. after the war only to have the boy held at Ellis Island and ordered deported because of a contagious eye disease, trachoma. Through a Legion post to which the father belonged, a temporary delay was secured, then national aid to support the boy at Ellis Island hospital in hope of curing*

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him, making him legally admissible. The Public Health Service reported him incurable. Dr. H.W. Wilmer, famous ophthalmologist from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, was enlisted by the Legion (and) declared there was hope of cure. For three years, the Legion paid the hospital bill, while national officers twice visited Washington to secure delay in deportation. At the end, the lad was cured, sent to join his father. It had cost national emergency funds of $1,600, while the father's contributions and local Legion helped pay the rest. The son of one immigrant who had fought for America was saved from becoming a blind beggar in Eastern Europe. Sixteen years later, the Legion heard that this Armenian lad, then married, had one other request to make of America. He wanted his 3A status in the Selective Service changed to 1A so that he could fight for the United States."

Emma Puschner

Through the decades, The American Legion has had numerous influential staff directors, but few compare to Emma Puschner, a former St. Louis social worker who helped shape U.S. policy on support for children and families. Working in 1925 with National Commander James A. Drain and newly appointed Children's Welfare Committee Chairman Mark McKee, who had personally adopted several orphaned children after the war, Puschner helped frame the "Whole Child Plan," which stated that every kid deserves nothing less than a home, health, education, character and opportunity.

The American Legion had already established national "children's billets" in Kansas, Michigan and New Jersey, but suspended that program (although Legion children's homes operated well into the 21st century, the last of which was in Knightstown, Ind.) as new facilities in California and Tennessee were in the planning stages. By shifting its strategy, the Legion's Child Welfare Committee and its allies – with significant assistance from the American Legion Endowment Fund (now the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation) – was able to provide more than $57 million in direct financial aid to help 7.5 million children between 1925 and 1945.

The American Legion stormed to the forefront of national leadership regarding families and influenced policy on child labor, education, fitness and prevention of juvenile delinquency. Puschner, who was a White House consultant for what became the federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, was such a well-known figure that she appeared on the radio as herself in a 1944 episode of "The Guiding Light," in which she addressed juvenile delinquency, community response to it and the importance of keeping families together.

"A nation that neglects to strengthen the security of its families, on which the future soundness of its own citizenship will be founded, cannot long maintain itself as a democracy," Puschner wrote in the March 1941 *National Legionnaire*.

The two lanes of Children & Youth have seen many remarkable moments over the past century. A 1942 American Legion National Oratorical Contest championship helped future Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Frank Church of Idaho go to Stanford University. CNN co-founder Lou Dobbs won the oratorical contest in the same department at 17, an accomplishment he called "fundamental to my ability to communicate in public." In 1967, future U.S. ambassador and presidential candidate Alan Keyes of Texas was first to win the National Oratorical Contest and be elected president of American Legion Boys Nation in the same year. Another Texan, Kevin Sladek, repeated that feat in 1999.

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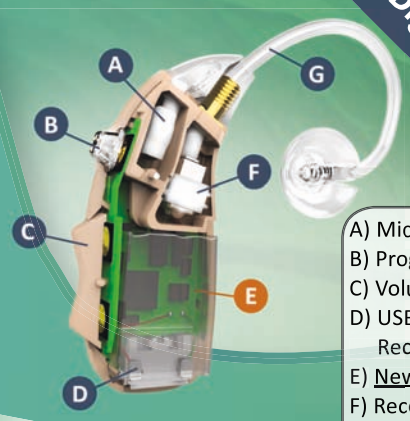

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Young men gather in the mess hall at the first Sunflower Boys State in Wichita, Kan., in 1937. American Legion Archives

Hundreds of public figures – including President Bill Clinton – participated in American Legion Boys State programs. The 2002 American Legion National Junior Shooting Sports champion, Jamie Corkish, won an Olympic gold medal in the 50-meter rifle competition in 2012 and went on to coach and mentor other young marksmen after she retired from competition. American Legion Baseball has now produced 81 National Baseball Hall of Famers.

Millions of children throughout the nation and around the world have benefited from American Legion programs, services, funds and compassion, and an incalculable number of scholarships have made college possible for millions more, from the children of military personnel killed on duty since 9/11 to the annual Eagle Scout of the Year.

The American Legion Riders dedicate their annual Legacy Run to the children of servicemembers who have lost their lives or became disabled on active duty since 9/11. At the 100th American Legion National Convention in 2018, the Riders celebrated a fifth straight year of eclipsing the $1 million mark for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides college money to young people like Elizabeth Brunke-Turner, whose father was 100 percent disabled after service in Iraq. She is using her $20,000 Legacy Scholarship to study molecular biology at Johns Hopkins University so she might one day become a surgeon who can help veterans. "My father's service, and other peoples' service, has very much inspired me," she said. "It's not just about going out to dangerous parts of the world. It's any kind of service that helps people ... that's part of why I want to be a surgeon – that idea of helping people, helping soldiers who have gone out and sacrificed."

In January, when the federal government shutdown meant no mid-month paychecks for active-duty members of the Coast Guard, The American Legion offered expedited TFA grants to affected junior enlisted families with children at home. The distribution was an all-time single-month record for TFA: $1,030,163, which included aid for 3,120 children of 1,713 members of the Coast Guard. American Legion posts across the country also conducted their own fundraisers, served meals, and distributed items like diapers and baby food.

American Legion Committee on Children & Youth Chairman Herbert J. Petit summarizes the massive mission of this pillar of service into three main objectives: "to strengthen the family unit; to support quality organizations that provide services for children and youth; and to provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of young people. The committee works to provide hope for children who face health, safety, discipline or home-life challenges and provides opportunities for young people to succeed."

Fulfillment of that mission has proven just what it means to be a veteran, an American and a Legionnaire.

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

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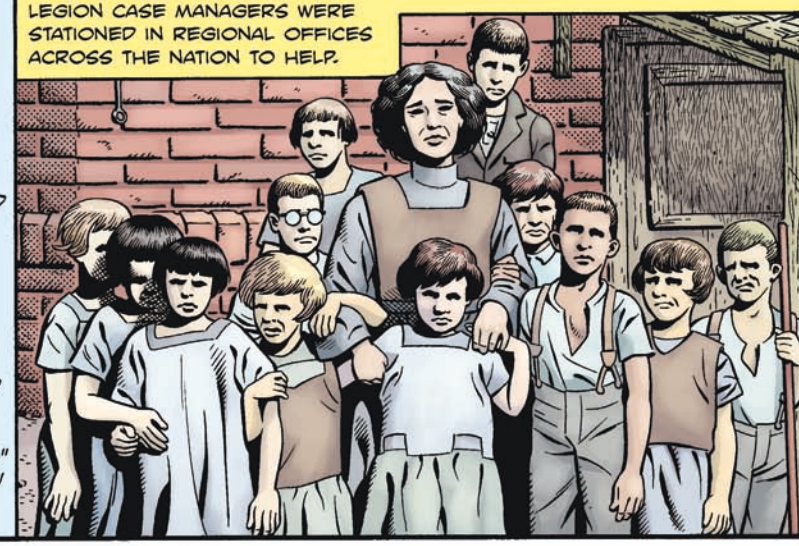
LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: JEFF STOFFER
ART: GARY MARTIN
COLOR: MARCUS ESKOW

THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN ORPHANED BY THE GREAT WAR WAS A DRIVING CONCERN OF THE EARLY AMERICAN LEGION. A 1919 RESOLUTION URGED LEGIONNAIRES TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WHO LOST PARENTS TO WAR "SUCH CARE AND ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE WITHIN THEIR POWER."

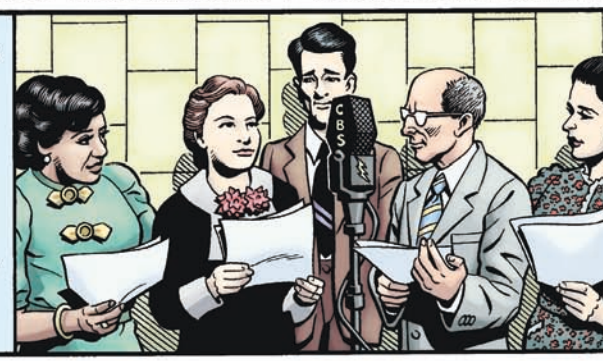
BY 1925, THE AMERICAN LEGION'S CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE WAS ACTIVELY WORKING ACROSS THE COUNTRY. AMERICAN LEGION "CHILDREN'S BILLETS" OPENED IN KANSAS, MICHIGAN AND NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE HOMES FOR KIDS IN NEED.

SOON, THE LEGION DETERMINED IT COULD BETTER SERVE YOUNG PEOPLE BY SUPPORTING EXISTING AGENCIES AND LOCAL PROGRAMS. AMERICAN LEGION CASE MANAGERS WERE STATIONED IN REGIONAL OFFICES ACROSS THE NATION TO HELP.



AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE DIVISION DIRECTOR ***EMMA PUSCHNER***, A FORMER ST. LOUIS SOCIAL WORKER, HELPED ESTABLISH THE "WHOLE CHILD PLAN". SHE PROCLAIMED THAT WAR ORPHANS AND NEEDY CHILDREN OF VETERANS DESERVE: ***- A HOME - HEALTH CARE - EDUCATION - CHARACTER - OPPORTUNITY.*** THE PLAN SOON EXPANDED TO ALL CHILDREN IN NEED. THE LEGION CALLED IT "A SQUARE DEAL FOR EVERY CHILD."

PUSCHNER ROSE TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE. SHE SERVED ON PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONS AND HELPED DRAFT NEW DEAL LEGISLATION THAT PRODUCED THE FEDERAL AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN PROGRAM. SHE EVEN ONCE APPEARED AS HERSELF IN A 1944 BROADCAST OF "THE GUIDING LIGHT" THAT OFFERED AMERICAN LEGION SOLUTIONS TO THE RISING PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.



BY 1945, THE AMERICAN LEGION WAS CREDITED WITH HAVING ASSISTED MORE THAN 7.4 MILLION CHILDREN AND DISTRIBUTING $57 MILLION IN DIRECT AID. APRIL BECAME DESIGNATED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION AS "CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH."

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'KIND OF AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY'

Memories of reciting the Pledge inspire artist Richard Masters' design for the American Legion half dollar.

Richard Masters' work for the U.S. Mint is a marriage of his interest in art and his boyhood hobby of coin collecting. A former professor of art at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Masters has designed 21 coins and five medals, including the 2009 Bicentennial Lincoln Cent (Log Cabin), the 2011 Sacajawea gold dollar reverse and the 2017 America the Beautiful Effigy Mounds (Iowa) quarter reverse. His latest is the American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Half Dollar.

Artist Richard Masters in his studio

When did you begin designing coins for the Mint?

I applied for the Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) in 2003, when they were putting the program together, and I was one of the first 24 artists accepted. I believe I'm the last artist from that original group of 24 who is currently with the AIP on a continuous basis. It's coming up on 15 years. I think we've enjoyed a great deal of success and have integrated well with the sculptor-engravers who end up sculpting our designs. I've really enjoyed it. It's a dream-come-true job.

What inspired this particular coin design?

I submitted designs for all three coins. As it turned out, my two designs for the half dollar were selected, which were the boy and girl saying the Pledge of Allegiance as well as the U.S. flag. I really like that design. The American Legion had stressed the importance of having artists look at the organization's Four Pillars. Two of the four, Americanism and Children & Youth, sort of fused together for me. I had this idea of children pledging allegiance; we did that growing up, and I remember quite vividly that one of our duties as older boys was to go out every morning and hoist the flag. That was a really memorable experience for me, and so the flag is seen from the children's point of view on the ground. It's kind of an autobiography in some ways, because I remember looking up at the flag. The design came together pretty fast after that.

One of the finishing touches is that the little girl is wearing her father's or grandfather's old American Legion cap. You can see it is too large for her head and sort of sags on one side. It implies that even at a young age children can start learning about patriotism and having pride in their country. Those early impressions go a long way. They stick with you for the rest of your life.

Do you have any veterans in your family?

My father was a World War II veteran and my grandfather was a World War I veteran, and they both were in The American Legion, I believe. They answered the call of duty, and I'm proud of them. My grandfather was on the front lines in France, and he told my mother two things about his time over there. One was how he listened to the Germans singing "Silent Night" at Christmas, and that he was at a farmhouse when he learned about the armistice. After that he went into the ministry and never spoke about the war again.

How much did you know about The American Legion before designing this coin?

I wasn't all that familiar with it. As with a lot of our programs, I've learned so much about the history of our country. They really force you to delve into a particular aspect of American history – to get into very specific events and people and places. It's been such a rich, rewarding experience for me.

– Matt Grills

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Emily Parker of Minnesota speaks at the American Legion National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis on April 25, 2018. Photo by Clay Lomneth

ORATORICAL

Legion, NSDA work together to empower nation's youth

In 2010, The American Legion formed a relationship with the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA), which shares the Legion's vision of empowering youth to become effective communicators, critical thinkers and leaders in a democratic society. Every year, the top three finishers in the Legion's National Oratorical Contest qualify for the NSDA's Original Oratory or U.S. Extemporaneous Speaking category.

J. Scott Wunn

The NSDA was established as the National Forensic League in 1925, and more than 150,000 youth participate in NSDA competitive speech and debate activities annually.

"Our goal is to provide the best possible opportunity for educators to succeed in building strong and vibrant curricular and co-curricular programs," says J. Scott Wunn, NSDA's executive director. "We feel the art of oratory is a skill that all youth ought to have as they pursue their life ambitions. Speech and debate develops skills in career readiness, argumentation and rhetoric, and enhances the civic-mindedness of students."

Wunn recently spoke to *The American Legion Magazine*.

Why is the relationship between The American Legion and the NSDA important?

As a Sons of The American Legion member, the coach of a former national American Legion Oratorical champion and a former participant in the Legion Oratorical Contest, I think this relationship is essential. Synergy between the veterans whose commitment ensured these opportunities and the youth who represent our future leadership is crucial. Oratorical speaking is common ground between these two groups. The NSDA's mission is to connect, support and inspire a diverse community committed to empowering students through competitive speech and debate. The American Legion's contest is one of the longest-standing and most respected of these events. It is not only our pleasure to promote it, but it is right now the center of our mission and purpose.

What has been a positive outcome of the relationship?

Our 3,000 high schools have a better understanding of the (Legion's Oratorical) contest. In several locales, we have been able to forge stronger relationships between the local NSDA chapter and the corresponding American Legion post. We hope to expand these relationships even further.

How have these partnerships exposed NSDA students to The American Legion?

I think there is an increased understanding of the importance of the Legion's mission and its support for youth. Many students don't automatically understand what the Legion does and why it is so important to our communities. Exposure to The American Legion through the contest gives youth that understanding. Also, I have seen firsthand how inspiring it can be for a veteran to watch the incredible skills and performances of speech and debate students. It reminds veterans why they served and of the legacy they are leaving.

How would you like to see the relationship develop between the American Legion Family and the NSDA?

I would like every single (NSDA) member high school to have a corresponding relationship with a local American Legion post to increase participation in the Oratorical Contest. One hundred percent of American Legion posts should be holding (an Oratorical) contest, and 100 percent of NSDA schools should be entering students in a local post event. That is the collaboration I would like to see. I also think that Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Auxiliary would make tremendous judges for other speech and debate contests that happen during the year. American Legion posts can proactively reach out to their local school districts to see if they have a speech and debate program, and participate as a judge or sponsor. To volunteer with the NSDA, email **info@speechanddebate.org**.

Finally, both organizations have at the core of their missions the idea of service. I think there are tremendous opportunities for posts and NSDA chapters to work together in service of their communities.

– Cameran Richardson

WATCH ORATORICAL FINALS

On April 7, the finals of the 82nd American Legion National Oratorical Contest will be held in Indianapolis. A free livestream is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Eastern, which can be accessed via **legion.org** and **facebook.com/americanlegionhq**.

On June 20-21, at the NSDA's National Tournament in Dallas, finalists will compete in Original Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking. Livestream the finals at **speechanddebate.org/live**.

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I can now go places and do things that I wasn't able to go or do before. It has given me a new lease on life and I am so happy I found it!

–Dana S., Texas

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THE GREAT WAR 100

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

'A welcome from you as nothing else can equal'

Editor's note: *Throughout the Great War's centennial,* The American Legion Magazine *will publish excerpts from the letters of D.B. "Bernard" Ryan of Albion, N.Y., who served as an Army infantry officer and helped found American Legion Sheret Post 35 in 1919.*

PARIS, APRIL 2, 1919

I believe the French are much dissatisfied with the progress of the Peace Conference. I am not perturbed by the attitude of the newspapers, as they are seeking trouble, but I do believe that the French in general would have been much better pleased to have finished the war with a severe beating for the Hun rather than an armistice. And there may be something in the argument that the rapid demobilization – or not so rapid, depending on your point of view – while still at war has provoked and increased the Hun's arrogance. But I can't believe that without an organization, without his ships and U-boats, without means of provisioning and supplies, the Hun can for the present cause us serious trouble. But in the meantime we have passed five months without the terms of peace being imposed on the conquered. I can understand why some are "fâcheuse." Marshall is reported to be, but at the same time he is supposed to have said that Germany has no longer an army. And there you are!

APRIL 8, 1919

Thank you for the clippings – the home news and the theatre & the Argonne lecture ad about the camps and Gen. Stanbery. If I had sailed with him I surely would have been demobilized and home for Easter, wouldn't I? I think you are wonderful to be so generous and so spirited in my behalf and it is my earnest prayer that I will be able to show that I appreciate it and that I may deserve it all. Well, I won't be there for all the parades and celebrations and homecomings, but I know that I will have such a welcome from you as nothing else can equal.

Of course put up your "Welcome" sign. It is for the others as well as for me.

APRIL 25, 1919

I am sending you today's *Stars and Stripes* – or will do so as soon as I have read it. You will note that sailings are ever on the increase – that the schedule is not only being adhered to but is being advanced. So I expect that getting home will not be so difficult. As to asking for leave of absence first, I may and I may not. I adhere to my desire to go up through the Argonne and would like also to go to England. On the other hand, I have kicked myself so many times for passing up a chance of getting home that I am not inclined to do anything to hold it up again.

Yesterday's news gave something of a start to the world. I scented something of interest when I set out yesterday morning and noticed that pedestrians were reading their morning journals with unusual interest. And then I reached the news stand and read my own its statement by President Wilson. I felt prouder than ever that I was an American and more enthusiastic than ever for my president. His was surely a bold stand ... and I have now full confidence in his power to back it up. We are, after all, proving ourselves to be really an enlightened people and showing the world that our ideals are actual and not confined solely to fine phrases.

Love, Son

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PERSONAL FINANCE

Financial spring cleaning

FOCUS ON FINANCES

J.J. MONTANARO

Temperature-wise, spring just isn't the same here in San Antonio as it was growing up in the Midwest. But even without cool, breezy temperatures, spring still represents an annual renewal. If you're like me, you feel an increased level of energy and excitement. You may be thinking about translating that energy into a round of golf or diving into spring cleaning. While I'd usually opt for the former, here I'm going to suggest you focus your energy on the latter – more specifically, spring cleaning your finances.

▪ **Review your beneficiary designations.** If I had a dollar for every client I've worked with who had outdated beneficiaries on their life insurance, IRAs, investments or bank accounts, I'd be on the golf course all day every day. I've seen married individuals with a parent or sibling as their beneficiary, divorced people with their ex as beneficiary, and even people with no beneficiary at all. This spring, ensure that all your beneficiary arrangements reflect your current wishes.

▪ **Update your estate planning documents.** Beneficiary arrangements are just one element of a comprehensive estate plan. Wills, trusts, powers of attorney, living wills and letters of instruction should be periodically updated in accordance with the current law and your wishes.

▪ **Consider your strategy for collecting Social Security.** It takes a different skill set to navigate the pitfalls of retirement income planning than it does to build your retirement nest egg. One big decision that may loom is the "when" on Social Security. There's no one-size-fits-all answer, but generally later is better. With every year you delay to age 70 equating to roughly an 8 percent raise, later can make financial sense. If you haven't, contact your local Social Security office this spring and start to dig into the details.

▪ **Clean out old documents.** I'll never forget venturing into a client's basement to confront dozens of boxes of cancelled checks and the like. Sure, you need to have a document retention strategy, but this bit of spring cleaning will free up space and ease the burden for someone coming in later to sort out your affairs.

▪ **Check your automatic payments.** A few years ago, I was doing some financial spring cleaning of my own. During the process, I found myself examining our wide range of automatic deductions and payments. There was a charge that I did not recognize but had seen before. I just assumed – you know what they say about that – my wife had signed up for something. This time, we were looking at things together and realized it was not a charge either of us had made. In fact, our daughter had signed us up for a movie-of-the-month club. We didn't receive any movies, but we did pay for nearly a year's worth of "membership." As you clean, make sure you're not paying for services you no longer need or want.

▪ **Build your tax deduction.** As you're conducting your normal spring cleaning, set aside your unused stuff and consider donating at the local Goodwill or other charity. Get a receipt to document the donation, and you may be able to take a charitable deduction when you prepare your 2019 tax return next year.

This spring, clean up more than your garage with a focused effort to fine-tune your finances.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances

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CAREERS

Job search strategies for older candidates

THE JOB FRONT
BY WENDY S. ENELOW

Are you 50, 60, 65 or older? If so, do you think your age might be having a negative effect on your job search?

Let's be honest about age discrimination in employment. Although it still exists, the market is not nearly as difficult for older candidates than it was a decade or two ago. Much of this can be attributed to the seismic shift that's occurred in the employment paradigm. Most companies are not looking for candidates who will work there for 40 years. Instead, they want someone to come in and solve a problem, meet a challenge, manage a project, fill a void, etc.

To open yourself up to as many opportunities, connections, interviews and more as possible, consider these recommendations for your résumé, LinkedIn profile and other career communications:

- **Don't start by highlighting that you have 25, 30 or more years of experience.** Let someone read about your skills, achievements, career highlights and more; then your age becomes much less significant, if a concern at all. If you are compelled to use a number, consider "15+" which, in reality, does include "30."
- **Don't include all of your work experience.** A résumé is not an autobiographical essay of your entire work life. Neither is your LinkedIn profile. Rather, they are written to showcase your most recent experience (10 to 20 years, in general) and the most significant highlights of your career. What about that job in 1980? Gone! It simply doesn't matter at this point in your career.
- **Do highlight notable achievements from long ago.** If you have a few select achievements from decades ago, include them. Put them in a short section – a paragraph or a few bullet points – at the end of your work experience. You can highlight your success without including all the details (dates, titles, ranks, locations).
- **Don't date your education.** So many job seekers work hard to mask the number of years they've been working, then include the date they graduated from college, OCS or other training. The result? They may have aged themselves out of consideration. Your résumé is not an application; you'll be able to share that info at a later time.
- **Include live links for your email address and LinkedIn profile on your résumé.** With a single click, an interested employer can email you or read your profile. Make it easy for everyone to contact you.

Wendy Enelow is co-author of "Modernize Your Résumé: Get Noticed ... Get Hired" and "Expert Résumés for Military-to-Civilian Transitions."

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A simple idea… made possible with sophisticated technology. If you have trouble understanding a call, captioned telephone can change your life. During a phone call the words spoken to you appear on the phone's screen – similar to closed captioning on TV. So when you make or receive a call, the words spoken to you are not only amplified by the phone, but scroll across the phone so you can listen while reading what's said to you. Each call is routed through a call center, where computer technology – aided by a live representative – generates voice-to-text translations. The captioning is real-time, accurate and readable. Your conversation is private. Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS) is regulated and funded by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and is designed exclusively for individuals with hearing loss. To learn more, visit www.fcc.gov. The Hamilton CapTel phone requires telephone service and high-speed Internet access. WiFi Capable. Callers do not need special equipment or a captioned telephone in order to speak with you.

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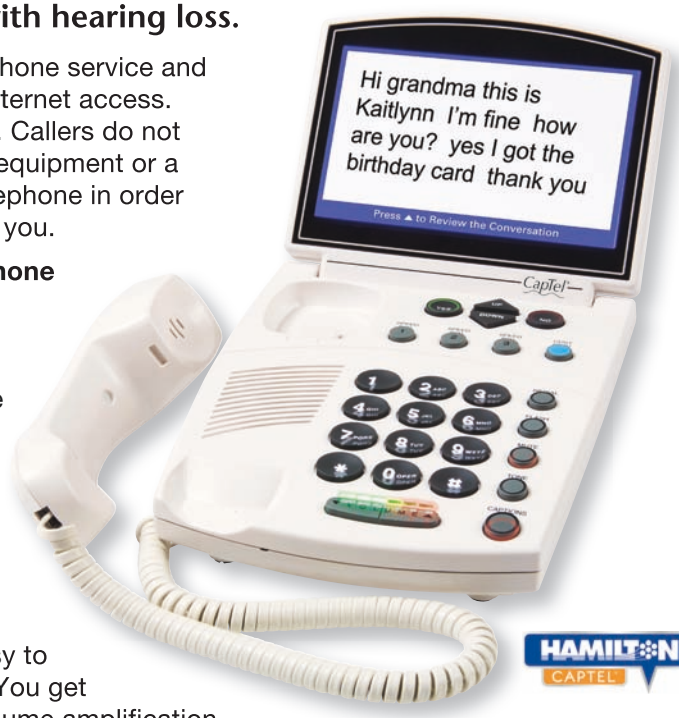

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BY THE NUMBERS

Traffic tensions

42 hours Amount of time per year the average U.S. commuter spends stuck in traffic

$115 billion Cost of lost time and wasted fuel associated with traffic jams

9 percent Increase in nighttime domestic violence incidents associated with "extreme evening traffic" on Interstate 5 and Interstate 10 in California

Sources: *The New York Times*, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

TECHNOLOGY

Marine bacteria drafted into military service

The Pentagon is enlisting science and industry to re-engineer marine microorganisms into "living tripwires to signal the passage of enemy subs, underwater vessels or even divers," Defense One reports.

"The Naval Research Laboratory, or NRL, is supporting the research. Here's how it would work: You take an abundant sea organism, like Marinobacter, and change its genetic makeup to react to certain substances left by enemy vessels, divers or equipment. These could be metals, fuel exhaust, human DNA or some molecule that's not found naturally in the ocean but is associated with, say, diesel-powered submarines."

That reaction could then be fed into sensors that Navy assets would use to detect, monitor and track hostile activity.

Defense One notes that the Army, Navy and Air Force have poured $45 million into this sort of research under the Applied Research for the Advancement of Science and Technology Priorities Program on Synthetic Biology for Military Environments.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Calling all drunks

Police usually focus on getting drunks off the streets, but a police department in Pennsylvania recently put a call out for volunteers to get drunk in order to assist "in training officers to administer Standardized Field Sobriety Tests during suspected DUI traffic stops."

The Kutztown Police Department posted a Facebook message asking for volunteers with a "clean criminal history," who are in "good health between the ages of 25 and 40 with no history of drug or alcohol abuse," "willing to drink hard liquor to the point of inebriation." Volunteers had to "sign a waiver releasing the Borough of Kutztown of any liability" and had to bring a "sober/responsible party" to "take care and control after the training."

As NPR reports, the police department "was flooded with eager volunteers" and announced soon after posting its call that it had received "an overwhelming response."

EDUCATION

MY GI BILL

VETERANS & EDUCATION
BY VALERIE HEFFNER

Accelerated Payment for high-tech programs

Q: *I have decided to pursue a degree in computer systems analysis, but tuition and fees are costly. I am entitled to receive Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 30 educational benefits. Chapter 30 does not pay the school for tuition and fees. Might I qualify for a special program to assist with the high costs?*

A: There is a program called Accelerated Payment that will make a lump-sum payment of 60 percent of the cost of your tuition and fees. The high cost means they must be double the monthly housing you receive for VA benefits. To receive this payment, you must enroll in a high-tech program and commit your intent to seek employment in a high-tech industry. Your program is on the approved list. If you would like to receive this payment, contact your school officials and advise them you are requesting Accelerated Payment.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. ***askvalerie@legion.org***

Photo courtesy John B. Terry

CENTENNIAL

Post 326, Shelby, Ohio

O'Brien American Legion Post 326 has long sponsored local youth sports teams, but the post once had its own basketball team made up of members. Post 326's Centennial Celebration page includes a photo of the 1948-1949 team lineup.

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legion.org/centennial

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LIFESTATION – Members can receive discounted rates on a medical alert system and a free extra item.

USAA – The Legion's preferred provider of financial services offers a full range of products. Discover what a free USAA membership can do for you. Join today.

MUTUAL OF OMAHA – Guaranteed Acceptance Whole Life Insurance available for members offering lifelong protection.

OFFICE DEPOT – Members receive up to 80 percent off more than 93,000 items. Members can shop online or print out a free in-store purchasing card to use discounts in-store.

MOVING – American Legion members receive special savings on professional packing, moving, and storage services from Air Van northAmerican. Discounts are exclusive so members must qualify through the American Legion member site.

GOV VACATION REWARDS – Members and their families receive a FREE military travel benefit presented by Gov Vacation Rewards (GVR). Discover deep savings on all your travel. Sign up for FREE today.

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Leading Acid Reflux Pill Becomes an Anti-Aging Phenomenon

Clinical studies show breakthrough acid reflux treatment also helps maintain vital health and helps protect users from the serious conditions that accompany aging such as fatigue and poor cardiovascular health

by David Waxman
Seattle Washington:
A clinical study on a leading acid reflux pill shows that its key ingredient relieves digestive symptoms while suppressing the inflammation that contributes to premature aging in men and women.

And, if consumer sales are any indication of a product's effectiveness, this 'acid reflux pill turned anti-aging phenomenon' is nothing short of a miracle.

Sold under the brand name AloeCure, it was already backed by clinical data documenting its ability to provide all day and night relief from heartburn, acid reflux, constipation, irritable bowel, gas, bloating, and more.

But soon doctors started reporting some incredible results…

"With AloeCure, my patients started reporting less joint pain, more energy, better sleep, stronger immune systems… even less stress and better skin, hair, and nails" explains Dr. Liza Leal; a leading integrative health specialist and company spokesperson.

AloeCure contains an active ingredient that helps improve digestion by acting as a natural acid-buffer that improves the pH balance of your stomach.

Scientists now believe that this acid imbalance is what contributes to painful inflammation throughout the rest of the body.

The daily allowance of AloeCure has shown to calm this inflammation which is why AloeCure is so effective.

Relieving other stressful symptoms related to GI health like pain, bloating, fatigue, cramping, constipation, diarrhea, heartburn, and nausea.

Now, backed with new clinical studies, AloeCure is being recommended by doctors everywhere to help improve digestion, calm painful inflammation, soothe joint pain, and even reduce the appearance of wrinkles – helping patients to look and feel decades younger.

FIX YOUR GUT & FIGHT INFLAMMATION

Since hitting the market, sales for AloeCure have taken off and there are some very good reasons why.

To start, the clinical studies have been impressive. Participants taking the active ingredient in AloeCure saw a stunning 100% improvement in digestive symptoms, which includes fast and lasting relief from reflux.

Users also experienced higher energy levels and endurance, relief from chronic discomfort and better sleep. Some even reported healthier looking skin, hair, and nails.

A healthy gut is the key to a reducing swelling and inflammation that can wreak havoc on the human body. Doctors say this is why AloeCure works on so many aspects of your health.

AloeCure's active ingredient is made from the healing compound found in Aloe vera. It is both safe and healthy. There are also no known side effects.

Scientists believe that it helps improve digestive and immune health by acting as a natural acid-buffer that improves the pH balance of your stomach.

Research has shown that this acid imbalance contributes to painful inflammation throughout your entire body and is why AloeCure seems to be so effective.

EXCITING RESULTS FROM PATIENTS

To date over 5 million bottles of AloeCure have been sold, and the community seeking non-pharma therapy for their GI health continues to grow.

According to Dr. Leal, her patients are absolutely thrilled with their results and are often shocked by how fast it works.

"For the first time in years, they are free from concerns about their digestion and almost every other aspect of their health," says Dr. Leal, "and I recommend it to everyone who wants to improve GI health without resorting to drugs, surgery, or OTC medications."

"I was always in 'indigestion hell.' Doctors put me on all sorts of antacid remedies. Nothing worked. Dr. Leal recommended I try AloeCure. And something remarkable happened… Not only were all the issues I had with my stomach gone - completely gone – but I felt less joint pain and I was able to actually sleep through the night."

With so much positive feedback, it's easy to see why the community of believers is growing and sales for the new pill are soaring.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND ALOECURE

AloeCure is a pill that's taken just once daily. The pill is small. Easy to swallow. There are no harmful side effects and it does not require a prescription.

The active ingredient is a rare Aloe Vera component known as acemannan.

Made from of 100% organic Aloe Vera, AloeCure uses a proprietary process that results in the highest quality, most bio-available levels of acemannan known to exist.

According to Dr. Leal and several of her colleagues, improving the pH balance of your stomach and restoring gut health is the key to revitalizing your entire body.

When your digestive system isn't healthy, it causes unwanted stress on your immune system, which results in inflammation in the rest of the body.

The recommended daily allowance of acemannan in AloeCure has been proven to support digestive health, and calm painful inflammation without side effects or drugs.

This would explain why so many users are experiencing impressive results so quickly.

REVITALIZE YOUR ENTIRE BODY

With daily use, AloeCure helps users look and feel decades younger and defend against some of the painful inflammation that accompanies aging and can make life hard.

By buffering stomach acid and restoring gut health, AloeCure calms painful inflammation and will help improve digestion… soothe aching joints… reduce the appearance of wrinkles and help restore hair and nails … manage cholesterol and oxidative stress… and improve sleep and brain function… without side effects or expense.

Readers can now reclaim their energy, vitality, and youth regardless of age or current level of health.

One AloeCure Capsule Daily

- **Helps End Digestion Nightmares**
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NATIONAL CONVENTION

Legion's centennial celebration heads to Indianapolis

At The American Legion's annual national convention, delegates and other appointed members of the Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion convene to conduct the official business of their organizations, from passing resolutions to electing new national leaders.

Still, American Legion conventions are about much more than business, and every member of the American Legion Family is encouraged to attend. If you've never been to a convention, the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis from Aug. 23-29 is a great time to start. In addition to the traditional activities open to all registered attendees – band and color guard contests, the exhibit hall, general sessions and speakers, training and workshops, and more – this year's convention will be another step in the 15-month centennial celebration, in the home city of American Legion National Headquarters.

American Legion Family members wanting to attend the festivities in Indianapolis should contact their departments for information on registration, housing and anything else regarding their department's participation. Go to **legion.org/departments** for a directory and links to department websites. For general questions – travel, local resources and more – email **convention@legion.org**.

EXHIBITS, SPONSORS

The 2019 Convention Marketing Opportunities package is available online, with information on exhibiting at and sponsoring the 101st American Legion National Convention. Hours for the Exhibit Hall in the Indiana Convention Center will be 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 23, 24 and 26, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 25 and 27.

legion.org/convention
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How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to ***The American Legion Magazine,* Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206,** fax **(317) 630-1280,** e-mail **reunions@legion.org** or submit information via our website, **www.legion.org/reunions.**

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year.** Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to ***The American Legion Magazine,* Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206,** fax **(317) 630-1280** or e-mail **reunions@legion.org.**

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to ***The American Legion Magazine,* Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to ***The American Legion Magazine,* Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

305th & 43rd Bomb Wings, B-58 Hustler, Grissom AFB, IN, 5/17-19, Tom Jennings, (765) 689-8011, director@grissomairmuseum.com; **485th Tact Msl Wing,** Corning, NY, 8/8-10, Chuck Hults, (607) 331-7138; **601st & 615th AC&W Sqdns,** Savannah, GA, 5/6-9, Derald Parkhurst, (908) 892-1048, deepark36@gmail.com; **601st Tact Cntl,** Niagara Falls, NY, 9/12-15, Paul Mussolino, (937) 838-0812, mussolino@earthlink.net; **6994th Sec Sqdn (Vietnam),** Nashville, TN, 9/5-7, Rich Krejsa, (615) 870-2294, rkrejsa@bellsouth.net; **AFROTC Det 465 (Univ of Nebraska-Lincoln, Classes of 1980, 1981 & 1982),** Lincoln, NE, 10/4-5, Jon Armstrong, nuafrotcreunion@gmail.com; **CCKAB,** Dayton, OH, 7/9-12, Bob Keller, (714) 865-9177, rejakeller@gmail.com; **Homestead ARB, FL, Flamingo Wing,** Fort Myers, FL, 4/26-28, Richard Mayo, (904) 228-6985, richardcmayo7@gmail.com; **RF-101 Pilots,** Scottsdale, AZ, 5/5-7, Jake Sorensen, (480) 868-0225, jaksoren@cox.net; **Thailand-Laos-Cambodia Brotherhood,** Las Vegas, 10/3-6, George Shenberger, (717) 424-3633, sanber54@aol.com; **USAF Personnel Equipment/Aircrew Life Support/Survival & Flt Equipment,** Las Vegas, 9/16-19, Andy Graves, (207) 228-3350, rummy54@yahoo.com

ARMY

1st Eng Bn, Deadwood, SD, 9/22-25, Dale Greenfield, dale.greenfield63@gmail.com; **3rd Port Reunion of Army Mariners,** Fort Eustis, VA, 5/18-18, Becky Brashears, (757) 566-8110, 3rdportreunion@gmail.com; **7/13th Arty Vietnam (All Btrys),** Gatlinburg, TN, 9/22-27, Robert Adams, (859) 806-5199, cavnam67@gmail.com; **31st Eng Bn (Cbt),** Boston, 10/3-6, Wilson "Louis" Brown, (508) 294-5869, louis.brown66@gmail.com; **34th Inf Plt Scout Dogs, 1st Cav,** Grants Pass, OR, 6/13-15, Jerry Witt, (414) 617-7896, jwwitt@execpc.com; **45th Finance Sect,** Indianapolis, 6/21-23, Samuel Pierce, (610) 207-2021, samueljpierce@yahoo.com; **46th Eng Bn,** Omaha, NE, 9/4-7, Vern Nelson, (715) 886-3290, jvnels2@solarus.net; **77th FA,** Colorado Springs, CO, 5/23-27, Joshua Coryell, (580) 574-6719, jcoryell106@gmail.com; **94th Inf Div Hist Society,** Columbus, GA, 6/12-16, John Clyburn, (908) 781-1406, 94thhistsociety@comcast.com; **104th Eng Co DT,** Myrtle Beach, SC, 5/2-5, Benny Wilhelm, (704) 873-7475, bennyandlinda@bellsouth.net; **119th AHC,** Branson, MO, 9/10-13, Spencer Gardner, (817) 629-3155; **142nd Med Co (CLR) Opn Desert Storm,** Old Saybrook, CT, 7/20, Edward McCullough, (203) 949-9029, mccu50@hotmail.com; **179th/402nd ASHC Shrimpboats (Vietnam),** Savannah, GA, 10/8-10, Stan Neckermann, (314) 487-5384, sn1643@sbcglobal.net; **180th/403rd ASHC Big Windy (Vietnam),** Savannah, GA, 10/8-10, Stan Neckermann, (314) 487-5384, sn1643@sbcglobal.net; **249th Eng Bn (1944-2019),** Kansas City, MO, 9/12-15, Robin Wandell, (660) 815-1166, firewoodfriends@hotmail.com; **304th Sig Bn (Korea),** Harrisburg, PA, 9/24-26, Ralph Burton, (610) 593-6310, ralphburton@frontier.com; **407th Radio Research Det,** Cleveland, 6/13-16, Bernie Murphy, (216) 224-5025, murphybe@juno.com; **529th Ord Co/564th MP Co (Massweiler/Pfalz, Germany),** Detroit Lakes, MN, 8/15-19, Thomas Frank, (218) 847-6274, tacrfrank@gmail.com; **575th Trans Co (Caserma Ederle, Italy),** New Orleans, 5/11, Fred Dintino, (215) 643-7970, fdintino@verizon.net; **925th Eng,** Frankfort, KY, 9/9-13, Bob Henry, (217) 622-1150; **A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf 9th Inf Div,** Washington, 9/4-7, Michelle Tuttle, (209) 532-9361, mmtuttle29@gmail.com; **A Co 4th QM Bn 4th Armd Div (Goppingen, Germany, 1957-1960),** Pigeon Forge, TN, 6/9-12, Lloyd Harfst, (636) 742-2071, mlharfst@charter.net; **B Trp 7/17th Air Cav,** Branson, MO, 5/20-23, Buddy Harp, (805) 210-8019, buddyharp@yahoo.com; **Bravo Co 82nd Eng Bn (Bamberg, Germany, 1983-1991),** Carlyle, IL, 7/19-21, Mark Hilmes, (618) 228-7133, hilmes4@sbcglobal.net; **C Co 1st Bn 6th Inf 198th Inf Bde Americal Div (Chu Lai, Vietnam, 1969-1970),** Washington, 9/20-22, Paul Cullinane Jr., (717) 263-2838, pecullinane29@gmail.com; **Cbt Equip Grp Europe,** Fort Lee, VA, 9/12-15, Steve Shirley, (804) 446-3246, shirimpala@aol.com; **Charlie Co 2/12th Inf Rgt 25th Inf Div (Vietnam),** Gatlinburg, TN, 6/13-17, Danny Breeding, (423) 345-5000, hawkinscounty.va@gmail.com; **F Trp 8th Cav Blue Ghost,** Orlando, FL, 5/2-5, Dennis Galinski, (352) 419-5148, dennisg65@tampabay.rr,com; **Hamburger Hill 3/187 Rgt, 101st Abn Div 50th Anniv,** Clarksville, TN, 5/13-18, Tom Martin, (856) 332-7030, tomsmail96@yahoo.com; **Korea Defense Vets (All Units, 1947-1991),** Pigeon Forge, TN, 8/8-11, Daniel McPharlin, (925) 308-4337, qm@7ida.us; **Ohio River LZ Chpt – Vietnam Heli Pilots Assn,** Fairborn, OH, 4/26-28, Keith Alleger, (502) 845-2814, ohrivlz.org; **Rakkasans 3/187 Rgt, 101st Abn Div,** Clarksville/Fort Campbell, TN, 5/13-18, Tom Martin, (856) 332-7030, tomsmail96@yahoo.com; **Recon Mortars HQ, E Co, 2nd/501st, 101st Abn (Vietnam),** Wilmington, NC, 4/15-18, Tom Hill, (704) 310-1800, tomnbonnie@bellsouth.net; **Vietnam Era Trp D (Air), 1/10 Cav,** Savannah, GA, 4/9-12, Ron Adams, (404) 713-0709, adamsofga@aol.com; **Vietnam MP Sentry Dog Alumni,** Springfield, MO, 9/5-8, Gary Smith, (713) 614-2503, puppypusher@att.net

COAST GUARD

Campbell* WPG 32/WMEC 909,** South Portland, ME, 5/6-8, Bob Dell, (267) 663-7710, rvdell32@gmail.com; ***Eastwind, Portland, ME, 6/12-15, Bill Morris, (856) 768-3961, eastwindassociation@gmail.com

JOINT

1st Bn 25th Mar – Marines, Sailors & Gold Star Families (All Eras), Quincy, MA, 6/15, 125marineassociation.com; **HAWKER (including Army Missile Air Def Vets & Marine HAWK Vets),** Charleston, SC, 10/13-17, Frderick Exley, woodhouse_1@charter.net; **NAS Sanford (All Units & Sqdns, 1942-1968),** Sanford, FL, 6/20-23, Ralph Feeback, (407) 302-2252; **Nat'l Pathfinders Assn,** Colorado Springs, CO, 7/21-25, James Craig, (307) 751-2108, craigj0369@gmail.com; **Taipei & Taiwan Military Personnel,** Dallas, 10/10-13, Richard Goodrow, (717) 802-5941, rgoodrow@yahoo.com

MARINES

1/5 USMC (1986-1992), Macomb, IL, 9/6-8, Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptimfi@yahoo.com; **1st Mar Aircraft Wing Assn (Vietnam),** Crystal City, VA, 6/13-16, Frank Arce, frankpaco69@aol.com; **3rd Bn 11th Mar (All Eras),** San Antonio, 9/25-29, Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dougmiller48@gmail.com; **26th Mar (Rgt, MEU & Supporting Units, 1945-2019),** New Orleans, 8/23-25, Sonny Hollub, (512) 825-4730, sonnyusmc@gmail.com; **Basic School MCB 3-68,** Quantico, VA, 9/19-22, Jerry Saggers, (703) 232-3572, jsaggers@gmail.com; **Golf Co 2nd Bn 7th Mar (Vietnam, 1965-1970),** Kingston, NY, 9/18-22, August Miele, (586) 202-0646, augustmiele@sbcglobal.net; **Mar Corps Eng Assn,** San Antonio, 9/12-14, Charlie Dismore, (514) 394-9333, cooleyjoel@aol.com; **Marines of Long Ago (All Eras),** St. Augustine, FL, 5/21-23, Joe "Red" Cullen, (203) 877-0846, aircooledmg7@aol.com; **Mike Co 3rd Bn 7th Mar 1st Mar Div,** Branson, MO, 10/9-13, Vernon Wright, (816) 294-0459, wrightv49@yahoo.com; **Plt 1187 (San Diego, 1969),** San Diego, 8/7-10, T.E. Miller, (618) 520-9646, peggyjeter4@gmail.com; **Vietnam Tankers & ONTOS Marines, including Support Personnel,** Seattle, 10/31-11/4, John Wear, (719) 495-5998, johnwear2@verizon.net

NAVY

***Abnaki* ATF 96,** Traverse City, MI, 9/23-27, Richard Beaver, (231) 384-5757, info@beaverloghomesinc.com; ***Akutan* AE 13,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; **American Assn of Navy Hosp Corpsmen,** Seattle, 9/25-29, Chuck Kraut, (817) 229-5194, chuckkat@swbell.net; ***Bennington* CVS 20,** San Diego, 9/9-12, Ronald Christensen, (402) 677-3413, ronc2@abbnebraska.com; ***Boston* CAG 1/CA 69/SSN 703,** Burlington, VT, 7/4-7, Charles Perez, (203) 767-6093, cperez8236@aol.com; ***Butte* AE 27,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Camden* AOE 2,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; **CBMU 302 (Seabees),** Oklahoma City, 10/10-14, Tom Vandenberg, (509) 520-5396, peggiev@pocketinet.com; ***Chara* AE 31,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Chikaskia* AO 54,** Deerfield, IL, 9/25-29, Bob Grant, (352) 753-7552, bobgrant1942@

gmail.com; ***Darter* SS 576,** North Little Rock, AR, 5/16-20, Jim Robinson, (870) 312-4335, jimrobinsonss@yahoo.com; ***Denver* LPD 9 & CL 58,** New Orleans, 10/16-20, Jim Hyden, (501) 590-5786; **Destroyer Leader Assn,** Boston, 9/9-16, Mike Bugara, (401) 635-8860, mjbugara@hotmail.com; ***Detroit* AOE 4,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Diamondhead* AE 19,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Elmer Montgomery* DE/FF 1082,** San Antonio, 10/3-6, Dennis Hopkins, (906) 280-5241, dennislhopkins@gmail.com; ***Elmer Montgomery* DE/FF 1082,** San Antonio, 10/3-6, Mark Batchelor, (609) 706-6731, deff1082.reunion@gmail.com; ***Eugene A. Greene* DD/DDR 711,** Mobile, AL, 9/16-20, Tom Weir, (864) 784-9655, weirtom@hotmail.com; ***Firedrake* AE 14,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Flint* AE 32,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Forrestal* CVA/CV/AVT 59,** Jacksonville, FL, 10/1-5, Jim Brussell, (937) 295-2863, cva59@roadrunner.com; ***George Bancroft* SSBN 643,** Cleveland, 6/6-9, Bill Badalucca, (828) 735-0831, billysubs@ssbn643.org; ***Goodrich* DDR 831,** Chicago, 5/14-17, Michael Leonard, (201) 447-1526, zazzetti@optonline.net; ***Great Sitkin* AE 17,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Haleakala* AE 25,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com, aesailors.com; ***Harlan R. 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McCain* DL 3/DDG 36,** Boston, 9/9-16, Peter Peterson, (321) 952-2066, retep401@gmail.com; ***Kilauea* AE 26,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Kitmai* AE 16,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Lassen* AE 3,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Leary* DD 879,** Tucson, AZ, 9/8-16, Al Redden, (308) 530-1284, alshr@allophone.com; ***Lexington* CV 16,** Corpus Christi, TX, 10/6-9, Gary Shorrel, (715) 828-5320, shorrel@charter.net; **Mariner/Marlin Org,** Seattle, 5/29-6/2, Bob Tibbetts, (859) 223-7871, bobt42@twc.com; ***Mauna Kea* AE 22,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Mazama* AE 9,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Missouri* BB 63,** Norwalk, CT, 9/3-8, John McKinney, (207) 799-8513, jmckinney1maine@yahoo.com; ***Mitscher* DL 2/DDG 35,** Boston, 9/9-16, Gary Marchido, (231) 206-1665, garymarchido@aol.com; ***Monrovia* APA 31,** Saginaw, MI, 9/25-29, Tom Crowe, (248) 214-7446, apa-31@comcast.net; ***Mount Baker* AE 4/34,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Mount Hood* AE 11/29,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Mount Kiska* AE 35,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Mullinnix* DD 944,** Charleston, SC, 5/1-5, Bob Houghton, (302) 650-3042, muxassn@hotmail.com; ***Nitro* AE 2/23,** Boston, 6/20-23, Bob Eberlein, (574) 277-3128, ebb23@att.net; ***Norfolk* DL 1,** Boston, 9/9-16, Bob Godas, (516) 293-4115, robertgodas190@gmail.com; ***Okanogan* APA 220,** Jacksonville, FL, 9/18-22, Dave Meierhoff, (620) 340-7406, damcsm@gmail.com; ***Paricutin* AE 3,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Pocono,*** Nashville, TN, 10/31-11/4, James DeVold, (803) 781-9887, jbdevold@aol.com; ***Providence* CL 6/82,** San Antonio, 10/9-13, Jim Chryst, (717) 284-6996, jchryst@embarqmail.com; ***Pyro* AE 24,** Milwaukee, 5/15-19, Bill Hogan, (434) 547-8387, bhogan291@gmail.com; ***Rainier* AE 5/AOE 7,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Richmond K. 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Edison* SSBN/SSN 610,** Norfolk, VA, 9/23-26, James Simpson, (757) 238-2193, jimmyjoesimpson@charter.net; ***Turner* DD/DDR 834,** Arlington, VA, 10/10-14, Henry Turner, (914) 737-7389, turnerhr@optonline.com; ***Tutuila* ARG 4,** Savannah, GA, 9/11-14, John Ward, (570) 384-3057, kandjw@epix.net; **VA-65 Tigers,** Knightstown, IN, 5/2-5, Steve Brinker, (765) 345-9302, skbrink@embarqmail.com; ***Valcour* AVP 55/AGF 1,** Williamsburg, VA, 10/9-13, Robert O'Brien, (516) 326-7587, bobbyjay46@gmail.com; ***Vesuvius* AE 15,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Virgo* AE 30,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Vogelgesang* DD 862,** Fall River, MA, 8/2-4, Ron Savino, (703) 474-3185, ldodd@aol.com; **VQ-1, 2, 5, 6 & Support Groups,** Nashville, TN, 9/4-8, Paul Buemi, (817) 964-3016, vq1256@gmail.com; **VW-1 All Hands Alumni Assn,** Branson, MO, 4/23-27, Ralph Link, (309) 828-3244, aewron1fe@gmail.com; ***Wilkinson* DL 5,** Boston, 9/9-16, John Lair, (619) 479-7387, hobocamp@aol.com; ***Willis A. Lee* DL 4,** Boston, 9/9-16, Frank Graham, (718) 934-6410, frankdl4@optonline.net; ***Wrangell* AE 12,** Providence, RI, 10/15-19, Kurt Julsen, (907) 632-9961, aesakj@yahoo.com; ***Zellars* DD 777,** Portland, ME, 9/7-11, Kevin Davis, (603) 261-2065, kevindavissr@aol.com

IN SEARCH OF

3rd Sqd 1st Plt B Co 1st Bn 3rd Mar (Kaneohe Bay, HI, May-Sept 1972), Gary Buenger, (573) 465-1636, mbbuenger@hotmail.com

5th Trans Bn 9th Log Cmd (Okinawa, 1960-1962), Ronnie Dean, preacherman35@totalhighspeed.com

57th Trans Co (Caserma Ederle, Italy), Fred Dintino, (215) 643-7970, fdintino@verizon.net

74th Ord Co (SD) & 61st Ord Grp Baseball Team (Fort Bliss, TX, Jan 1962-Aug 1964), Kenneth Ruben, (412) 341-8455

1373rd Mapping & Charting Sqdn (Turner AFB, 1963-1966), John Watson, (706) 341-6386

1607th Comm & Electronics Sqdn All Shops (Dover AFB, 1961-1964), Joel Gray, 1607thcomm.elect@gmail.com

HHC 2/28 Inf 1st Inf Div "Black Lions" Recon Plt (Lai Khe, Vietnam, 1966-1967), Richard Qunell, (612) 597-6458

TAPS

John R. Davis, Dept. of South Carolina. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2014 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2009-2013.

Lawrence F. Duffany, Dept. of Connecticut. Dept. Cmdr. 2003-2004, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2014-2018, and Nat'l Law and Order & Homeland Sec. Cmte. Memb. 2013-2014.

Gary W. Sammons, Dept. of Michigan. Dept. Cmdr. 1978-1979, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2013-2019, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2002-2013, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Chmn. 1988-1993, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1993-1996, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Chmn. 1982-1988, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1977-1979, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 1976-1977, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Chmn. 1979-1981, Nat'l Policy Coordination & Action Grp. Memb. 1988-1993, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Consultant 1973-1976, Nat'l Veterans Planning & Coordination Cmte. Memb. 1982-1988 and Nat'l Veterans Pref. Cmte. Chmn. 1981-1982.

Franklin R. Sickle Jr., Dept. of New Jersey. Dept. Cmdr. 1995-1996, Nat'l Exec. Cmte., Alt. Memb. 1997-1999, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1999-2003, Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Cmte. Memb. 1999-2003, Nat'l Media & Communications Cncl. Memb. 2013-2016, Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Consultant 1978-1985, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1996-1997, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Chmn. 1997-1999, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2016-2019, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 2003-2013, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1999-2003, Nat'l Subcmte. on Resolutions Memb. 2002-2003 and Nat'l Subcmte. on Cmtes. Memb. 2001-2002.

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BALL CAPS

Some people won't suffer in silence. That would take the fun out of it.

ONE HUNTING SEASON, a state trooper walked up to a man and his son and said, "That's a nice buck you have on top of your car."

The surprised man couldn't say anything, so his son answered for him, "That's nothing! You should see the one we have in the trunk!"

AS I WATCHED the dog chasing his tail, I thought "Dogs are easily amused." Then I realized I was watching the dog chasing his tail.

PEOPLE WHO THINK that time heals everything haven't sat it out in a doctor's waiting room.

"Didn't I tell you to limber up before you started channel-surfing?"

DURING MY AIRCRAFT CARRIER'S Family Day, I demonstrated a procedure called semaphore to civilians. I grabbed my flags and signaled an imaginary boat.

When finished, I asked a girl, "Now do you know what I do?"

"Yes," she answered. "You're a cheerleader."

– *Submitted by Danny Sullivan, as published in* Reader's Digest's *"Humor in Uniform"*

Do you have a funny military-related anecdote? To share with *Reader's Digest*, visit **rd.com/submit**. Remember to include your American Legion post name and number.

"I've only been here for a day. Those are the naps I've taken."

"Many editors take it to improve their colons and semicolons."

A BOY SCOUT was trying to raise funds for his troop by collecting bottles and cans. He went to one house and asked an old woman if she had any old beer bottles.

"Do I look like the kind of person who would drink beer?" she retorted.

"Sorry. Do you have any old vinegar bottles?"

IT MIGHT LOOK like I'm doing nothing, but at the cellular level I'm really quite busy.

AT A JOB INTERVIEW, the manager told me he was looking for somebody responsible.

"I'm your guy," I responded. "Whenever there was a problem at my last job, they always said I was responsible."

"YOU KNOW you're getting old when you get that one candle on the cake. It's like, 'See if you can blow this out.'" – *Jerry Seinfeld*

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POW-MIA

Blue Star Salute

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